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February 2020

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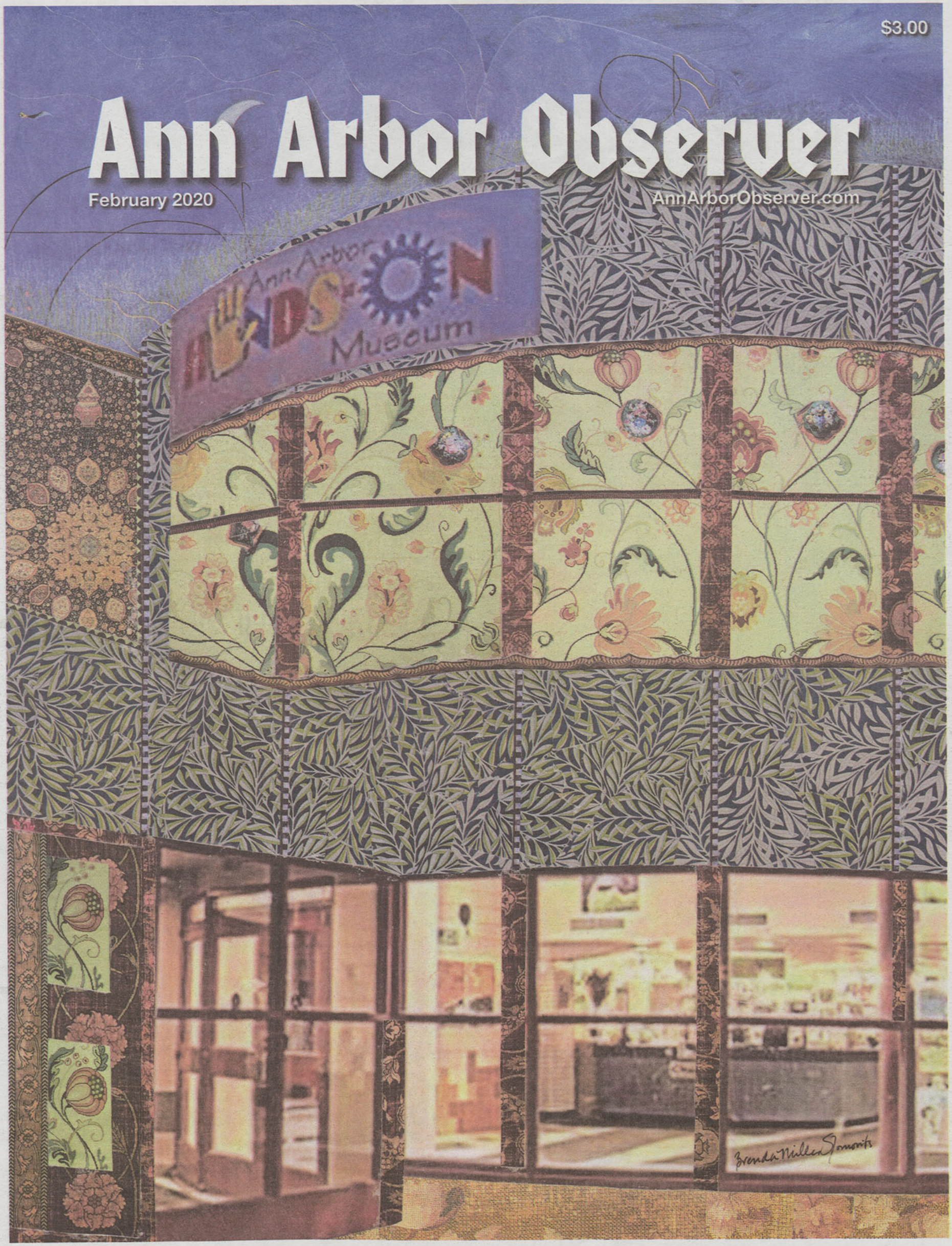

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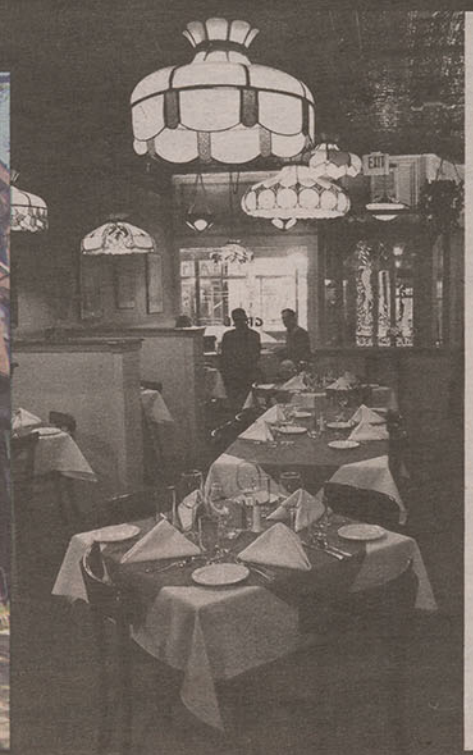

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Wine cave liberals: "I'm just a pawn here," a frustrated Craig Hall told the *New York Times* in December. Hall's Napa Valley fundraiser for presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg had just blown up the December Democratic debate, where senator Elizabeth Warren declared that "billionaires in wine cellars should not pick the next president of the United States." (Buttigieg shot back that he was the only candidate there who wasn't even a millionaire.)

Hall is an Ann Arbor native—his father worked at Argus Camera and his mother was an art teacher. He once told a Dallas paper that "growing up in a liberal university town" made him think that business was "somehow an evil, negative thing." He added that he'd since concluded that entrepreneurs "can do well for themselves and [also] do good things for society."

In December, Hall told the *Times* that in his own circles, he is "often seen as the most liberal"—views he traces to growing up here during the turbulent Sixties. In 1967, he was elected "mayor" for Student Government Day, presiding over a "city council" that adopted an income tax. But the actual city staff didn't have many ideas about how he could fulfill his campaign promise to improve student housing.

In a video posted on hallgroup.com, Hall says that disappointment spurred his first real estate deal: at eighteen, he put down his life savings to buy a run-down house on Hamilton Pl. Determined, he says, to "prove that you could be a good-guy landlord," he had dozens of properties by the time he dropped out of the U-M to expand into "lifestyle" apartment complexes. He moved his company to Dallas in the early 1980s, claims to have lost $1 billion after tax laws changed later in the decade, but now is richer than ever.

The winery connection comes through his third wife, Kathryn, whose father owned a Napa orchard. They often host fundraisers there for causes and candidates they support. "There are literally hundreds of Democrats that have been in that same cave," California governor Gavin Newsom told the Associated Press.

In 1997, president Bill Clinton named Kathryn Hall ambassador to Austria. While she's an attorney who speaks German and French, Clinton probably also noticed the Halls gave $234,000 to Democrats in the previous election cycle. Maybe Mayor Pete will be equally grateful if he becomes President Pete.

Photo finish: "When the parameter changes, we all start from zero," says Ivory Photo owner Michael Hough. In January, Hough and his stepdaughter and co-owner, Devin Buhro, announced "with a heavy heart" that the nearly century-old studio would close its doors at the end of the month.

With the advent of digital cameras and scanners, Hough explains, "photography has moved away from professional labs and services, and people can do for themselves most of what they used to need a pro to do." Buhro agrees. "With the awesome cameras that are now available, high school seniors can have their friends do their [graduation] photos for them."

That wasn't the case in 1925, when Mel Ivory started developing photos in the basement of his uncle's drugstore. Ivory Photographic Services became the official photographer for the *Michigan Alumnus, Michiganensian,* and what was then the Bureau of Alumni Relations. Using bulky box cameras and developing his own film, Ivory documented the buildings, businesses, and people of Washtenaw County. Many of his large-format negatives and prints are preserved at the Bentley Library.

Hough and Diane Argus bought the business from Ivory's daughter in 1981. Hough became sole owner in 1999 and moved it to its final location, above the Mail Shoppe on S. Division, in 2013.

Hough is also a musician with the group Mustard's Retreat (see Event Reviews, p. 51). He's now retired from photography and living in Arizona. Buhro, on the other hand, may be moving forward by looking back—she is considering getting a degree in archeology.

Mongo redo: It still says "Kresge" on the side door of BD's Mongolian Grill, but out front and inside, the restaurant at the corner of Main and Washington has a new look.

In January, senior executives from BD's came to Ann Arbor for a ribbon cutting to unveil a $225,000 renovation of the stir-fry restaurant, which opened in 1994, two years after the chain was founded by Billy Downs, the BD in the name.

Downs sold out in 2008 (he now owns a burger-and-brew franchise in Dearborn called Ford's Garage). The buyers' expansion plans faltered in the Great Recession, and BD's joined Genghis Grill and Flat Top Grill under the umbrella of Texas-based Mongolian Concepts.

Mongolian Concepts has nearly 100 restaurants around the country, but not all are flourishing—a BD's in Okemos closed in 2018, and one in Royal Oak this past December. Chief operating officer Paul Carolan says shopping mall locations especially are struggling.

That's made downtown stores like Ann Arbor's more important. Carolan says the new look they're piloting here will become the template for renovations at other BDs . Along with a brighter orange-and-red color scheme, they've opened up the entry so that it can hold different configurations of tables. A café-like counter with tall chairs along the front window and a long communal dining table behind it provide space for laptops or mealtime meetings.

Carolan points out that BD's build-you-own format easily accommodates a range of diners, from vegetarians to those following protein-heavy keto diets. That minimizes "veto votes" in which members of a group veto a restaurant because it can't meet their dietary needs.

"We're just excited for you to come and spend a lot of money," he says.

There and back again: Jiaqi traveled halfway around the world to pursue a master's degree in biostatistics at the U-M. Xuzhou travelled just as far to pursue a PhD in mechanical engineering. (We're not using their last names to preserve some privacy.) They met in a North Campus library, discovered they were both new arrivals from China, and soon fell in love.

China is big, so they were astonished to discover that they were from the same city, Taiyuan, in northern Shanxi province. Taiyuan has more than four million people, so it was even more astonishing when they discovered they had attended the same high school and graduated in the same class.

They now plan to marry, so over winter break they returned to Taiyuan to meet each other's families. Getting everyone together wasn't hard: It turns out they grew up just five blocks apart. "It's cute!" Xuzhou says. "It's romantic!" ■

ILLUSTRATIONS: TABITHA WALTERS

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Julie has over 25 years of experience advancing cities and urban areas. She is a nonresident senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, where she designed and led numerous global research initiatives, including the Bass Initiative for Innovation and Placemaking. She is also a visiting scholar for the Esade Business School's Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics.

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Costly Justice

"I think the public would be offended by the way poor people are treated," says Marilena David-Martin.

When it comes to paying for Michigan's courts, says the attorney with the State Appellate Defender Office, "the most vulnerable people are essentially in charge … The public would be shocked at the amount people are fined. Those fees can be very high, and they are determined judge by judge."

In September, the Michigan Trial Court Funding Commission wrote that the state's courts have become "dependent upon court assessments" to fund their operations. The commission reported that in 2017, Michigan courts collected $418 million from criminal defendants—29 percent of their budgets.

To state senator Jeff Irwin it's part of "a very troubling trend over the last several decades" for courts to impose heavy fees on defendants. The state, he says, is "running the courts on the backs of the poor and really maximizing the revenue from fees."

The funding commission also deplored the trend. "Michigan residents going to court should not face a judge who needs money from a defendant to satisfy demands for court operating expenses," it wrote. And it warned that the practice itself may not be legally defensible: "Michigan's trial courts are facing the possibility of a financial emergency due to changes in financing methods brought on by People v. Cameron."

David-Martin brought that case on behalf of Shawn Cameron, who in 2013 was convicted of domestic assault in Washtenaw County Trial Court and assessed $1,611 in court costs. She argued that the fee was unconstitutional because it allowed a court to "raise its entire budget, if it wants, off the backs of criminally convicted individuals."

Last July, the Michigan Supreme Court declined to hear Cameron's appeal on technical grounds. In her concurring opinion, chief justice Bridget McCormack wrote that "denying leave to appeal in this case will allow our current system of trial court funding in Michigan to limp forward—at least until [the governing state law] sunsets" in October.

MARK BIALEK

State senator Jeff Irwin says Michigan "is running the courts on the backs of the poor."

Irwin says the legislature created the commission to study the issue the last time it extended the law, in 2017. However, he suspects that his colleagues will just extend it again this year.

"I would be surprised if we came together on a real great statewide funding system," he says. "But I do think that's where we need to go. "

The burden on defendants varies from court to court. Ann Arbor's Fifteenth District Court gets 36 percent of its funding from fines and fees, while the county's 14A District Court gets 39 percent. But 14B District Court in Ypsilanti Township gets a whopping 86 percent of its budget from people who appear before it.

That money comes from "court costs, probation fees, ordinance fines and costs, and forfeited bonds," says 14B court administrator and magistrate Mark Nelson. Most of the rest of its $1.8 million budget comes from state support for its drug court. The township contributes nothing to the operation of the court.

In contrast, Ann Arbor's 15th District got 57 percent of its $4.9 million 2019 budget from the city. Parking tickets accounted for more than half of its fines and fees, with the rest coming from traffic tickets and other ordinance violations.

Of the county's three district courts, 14A has the biggest budget, $6.7 million—not surprising, since it operates courts in Ypsilanti, Pittsfield, Saline, and Chelsea. But the county government covers 59 percent of that total.

The county pays an even larger share—67 percent—of the $21 million budget for the Washtenaw County Trial Court (aka the 22nd Circuit Court). Most of the rest comes from the state, with fines and fees providing less than 4 percent.

David-Martin challenged court-imposed fees on behalf of Shawn Cameron, who was ordered to pay $1,611 after being convicted of domestic assault in Washtenaw County Trial Court.

"Trial court deals with felonies," 14A court administrator Lisa Fusik explains in an email. "They also deal with child custody, divorce, [and] a lot of probate issues so they do not get a lot of court fines and fees … more people have contact with district than with trial court so we do have more revenue from defendants' fines and costs."

Besides parking and traffic tickets, the district courts handle landlord-tenant suits, misdemeanor criminal cases, and civil cases with claims up to $25,000. The trial court deals with felonies and higher-value civil litigation, as well as juvenile and family cases.

"We're very well-funded," says Trial Court administrator Dan Dwyer. "We have a very positive relationship with our funding unit [and] in my twenty years we've never brought an expenditure budget in the red."

The study commission report describes local governments pressing their courts to raise money from defendants through fines and fees. Dwyer says he saw that when he was mayor of Plymouth: "I sat on the court funding board for the district court of Plymouth, and some of the other members of that board would really get after the court for revenues going down … The court got put under a lot of scrutiny for collecting of revenues."

Trial court chief judge Carol Kuhnke agrees that many courts feel pressed to raise money. But her courts, she says, "don't have that tension." She says that's largely because, unlike most counties, Washtenaw "lets us manage our own staff [even though] by law they're employees of the county."

Kuhnke explains that the state requires courts to impose costs on all convicted felons—currently $1,611 in the local trial court, though judges have the power to waive or reduce that. "We also assess if someone has had an attorney appointed to represent them. That charge is $650, which again I can reduce or eliminate."

Ironically, the fact that most local courts are well-funded could hurt them if the state moves to reduce reliance on fines and fees. That's because the funding

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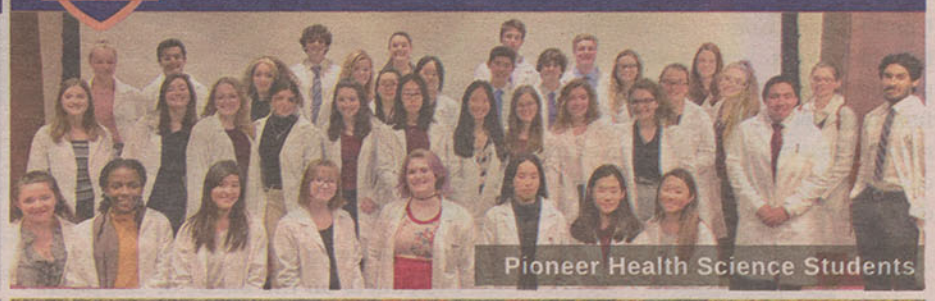
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commission recommended making court staffs state employees—paying them out of revenue that currently stays with local courts.

There's pressure to do something. In her opinion in the Cameron case, Chief Judge McCormack wrote: "I urge the Legislature to take seriously the recommendations of the Commission before the pressure placed on local courts causes the system to boil over."

Dwyer says he "absolutely agrees" that court costs if they're assessed should be the same across the state of Michigan. "That's easy to implement: just pass a statute."

But "when they talk about equal funding, we're one of the courts that's up here"—Dwyer raises one hand above his head—"and there's a lot of courts down here"—he lowers his other hand to his waist. "If everybody comes to the middle then we've lost," he says, holding his hands up to show the gap.

Irwin agrees that redistributing existing court revenue would hurt well-funded courts like ours. He says the state would have to come up with an additional $400 million to fund them all well.

In the worst case, centralizing funding in Lansing could put the courts on the downhill trajectory followed by school funding since voters passed Proposal A in 1994. From 1995 through 2015, an MSU study released last year found, Michigan ranked dead last in the country for school funding growth.

Like Irwin, Kuhnke suspects the legislature will extend the current authorization when it expires this fall. But she and nearly everyone else interviewed figures the state will sooner or later take over court funding.

When that happens, Kuhnke says, "I don't think justice is going to crash in Washtenaw County. One way or another we will figure out how to operate."But they'll likely have to do it with less money.

No-Fault Blowback

"My next six months is just havoc," John Cornack says.

Cornack is CEO of the Eisenhower Center, which cares for people with major neurological problems at facilities in Michigan and Florida. At its namesake residence on Eisenhower Pkwy. and a small geriatric facility nearby, 430 employees look after just 140 patients.

That large staff reflects its clients' severe physical and behavioral problems. Eisenhower Center provides "post-acute" care for badly injured people, most of them with traumatic brain injuries. The "havoc" Cornack describes is having to cut its staff by nearly two-thirds.

Cornack has been caring for severely injured people for thirty years, but in July, his economic model will be destroyed. That's when insurance reimbursement for Michigan residents injured in car crashes will fall 45 percent.

"We can't cut our expenses that much and still get the quality of services for the people we care for," Cornack says. When the rate cut hits, the Ann Arbor center will "have to go down to about 150 employees quickly—within a year. Then we'd have to close most of the centers as the clientele start to be discharged."

The rate cuts were dictated by the new no-fault auto insurance law that governor Gretchen Whitmer signed last June. Seeking to lower Michigan's auto insurance rates, which are some of the highest in the country, the legislature took aim at high medical bills for people hurt in car crashes, and expensive lifelong care for those who suffer the worst injuries.

The new law "reflects the compromises that any productive legislative process requires and the final result is imperfect," emails Mark Bernstein, a U-M regent and member of the state's most prominent personal injury law firm. But he calls it "an important step towards addressing the skyrocketing costs of auto insurance in Michigan. It is worth noting that in 49 other states, there are robust health care

MARK BIALEK

Facing a 45 percent cut in reimbursement rates under Michigan's new no-fault auto insurance law, the Eisenhower Center expects to lay off 280 employees within a year. "We can't cut our expenses that much and still get the quality of services for people we care for," says CEO John Cornack.

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Attorney John Whitman of Garan Lucow Miller represents insurance companies against firms like Bernstein's. Those cases, he says, often include disputes over how much to pay for care a patient received. "Perhaps an insurance company will say an MRI is worth $1,000, and the other side says, 'No, it's a $10,000 MRI.' "

Whitman says some health-care providers abused the system by billing no-fault care at their highest rates instead of the discounted fees negotiated by insurance companies, or the even lower rates paid by Medicare and Medicaid. "Now there will be a fee schedule that, over time, will come closer and closer to Medicare," he says.

That's the fee schedule that Cornack says will drive him out of business. In their drive to lower insurance premiums, he says, lawmakers knowingly sacrificed the people with the worst injuries. Under the old law, he says, Michigan residents got coverage unmatched anywhere in the country, including lifetime care in specialized facilities like his.

"You and I, up until June of last year, could only buy lifetime medical" coverage for injuries in a car crash, Whitman explains. Under the new law, "you can go out and, in some cases, waive medical entirely—if you have Medicare—or you can purchase very low limits." Some limits will be so low they're likely to be exhausted before an accident victim leaves the ER.

The old law's unlimited lifetime medical benefits paid for facilities like Eisenhower, with large staffs skilled in handling people with physical and behavioral problems.

Whitman considers that a "profound negative" of the law. "When tragedy strikes—by the grace of God it usually doesn't strike—but when it does strike, lifetime medical is a good thing to have," he says.

That coverage paid for facilities like Eisenhower, with large staffs skilled in handling people with physical and behavioral problems. Cornack describes one client "who was injured in Marquette when he was three years old." He's now twenty-eight, but functions more like "a nine- or ten-year-old." Sometimes, through no fault of his own, "he's behavioral; he has difficulties."

When the young man "loses it," Cornack says, Eisenhower's staff has the experience and expertise to calm him. But that's not going to be the case, he says, wherever he goes next.

If Eisenhower closes, "some of those folks who are bedridden, wheelchair-based, they're going to have to go to skilled nursing homes with no behavioral health [care], where the average age is eighty-five, not forty-five," Cornack says. "So you're going to have a young person who has a brain injury and behavioral issues in a population of ninety-year-olds. That probably won't work so well."

If his patient from Marquette can't be managed in a nursing home, Cornack predicts, he will end up in the care of family members—but the new law also limits how much families can be paid to look after disabled loved ones. And if "he starts to lose it in the community, there is no one to help him but the police," Cornack says. "What's going to happen when the police intervene? He's going to be incarcerated. He's going to end up in a psych unit. And then he'll be discharged out into the community."

Some legislators admit to problems. "Post traumatic rehab facilities was one of the things I struggled with," Phil Green (R–Millington) told a forum in Bad Axe in January. "Cuts that were made went beyond the intent of the law." As reported in the *Huron Daily Tribune,* "Green went on to say that meetings over the next couple of weeks will deal with trying to work through current legislation. The push is to loosen price control."

But Cornack, who fought the no-fault changes as president of a provider group, doesn't expect any changes. "Green has hopes that will happen," he emails, "but Green is not powerful enough to bring anything to bear on the floor."

Cornack tells his story by phone from Jacksonville, where he opened an Eisenhower Center in 2016. During the work week, he lives in an RV near his daughter's home there, or in a "tiny house" in the parking lot of the Ann Arbor center. Weekends he goes home to Pittsburgh, where he's lived for thirty-six years and where his wife, Lisa, is being treated for retinitis pigmentosa. Though the commute is difficult, he says, their home is near his wife's specialist at the University of Pittsburgh, and a lot of other people with sight issues live nearby, so it's a good place for her.

The last hope for the state's post-acute care centers may be a lawsuit filed last year. The husband of an Eisenhower resident is a plaintiff in the litigation, which challenges both the rate cuts and limits on family caregiving. But that will take years to play out, and the new fee schedule will take effect within months.

The first cuts, Cornack estimates, will eliminate about 280 jobs. If, as he expects, the Ann Arbor center eventually is forced to close, the remaining 150 staffers will need to find new work.

Two smaller Eisenhower facilities could survive. One, in Manchester, has six patients. Launched in 2014, after Cornack met onetime Detroit Lions quarterback Eric Hipple, it helps former professional football players deal with brain injuries caused by multiple concussions and is supported by the NFL.

The other is the Jacksonville center, which primarily serves former NFL players and military veterans. It currently

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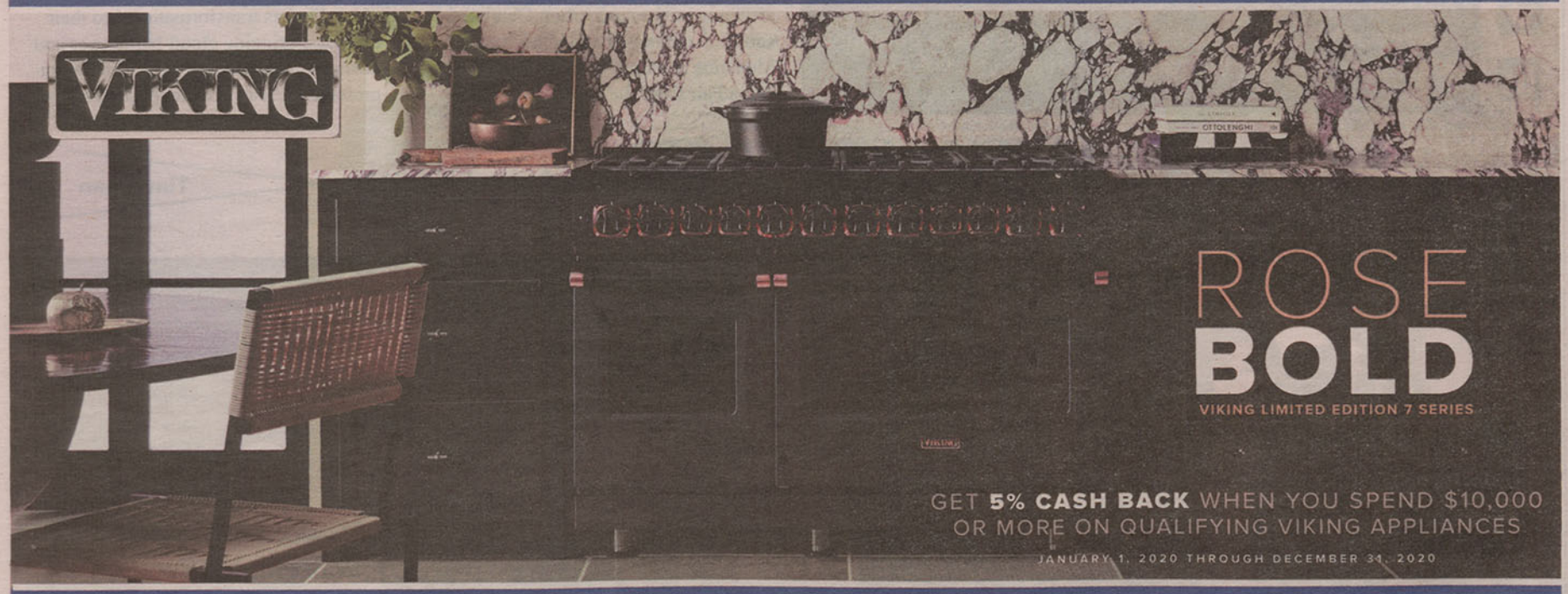

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has ten patients, but "we're trying to get the NFL to be a bigger player, and the Veterans [Administration] to be a bigger player," Cornack says.

Asked about his own plans, he seems unconcerned. In the worst case, he says, he'll "start over again if jobs present themselves—I'll be an aide or something."

What really hurts, he adds, is thinking about the fate of his clients. Inevitably, some of the drivers who choose to save money by opting out of lifetime care will suffer devastating injuries. Their families, he predicts, will "have GoFundMe pages. They'll have lasagna dinners and that kind of stuff to try to help their loved ones.

"They'll go bankrupt a lot."

Duo Safe

When students log into their U-M accounts on January 29, they'll need more than their passwords.

That's the date when all 65,000 students at the university's three campuses will be required to use the two-factor identification system developed by Ann Arbor's own Duo Security. Two-factor means two proofs: a password plus something else like an app, code, or hardware "token."

Students are the last group required to get with the program. "All faculty, staff, student employees, and sponsored affiliates on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses and in Michigan Medicine are already using Duo," emails Dana Fair from the U-M's information and technology services. "Our focus now is on getting the rest of the students to use two-factor." They figured about 5,000 holdouts would be affected.

The university has used some form of two-factor authentication since 2005. What's changing is that now everyone has to use it. As Fair writes, "For two-factor authentication to be most effective, everyone needs to use the same tool."

Two-factor ID "provides an extra layer of protection above and beyond one's password," Fair explains. "If a malicious actor somehow gets access to someone's username and password, they won't be able to log in as that person because they will not have the Duo second factor."

Google, which handles the university's email, already offers two-factor ID. But Duo "protects more than just Google," Fair writes. "It protects a large array of tools and applications used across the university."

And across the cyber-verse: founded by U-M grads Dug Song and Jon Oberheide in 2010, Duo now has more than 800 employees and is looking to add 200 more this year. Most work in its Ann Arbor office in the Allmendinger Building on S. First, but others are in Detroit, Austin, San Francisco, and London, plus some in remoter spots around the globe.

Though Duo boasts hundreds of major universities as clients, Song is clearly thrilled to add the U-M. "I've come full circle," he emails. "I attended UofM as a student and started my career there as a Security Administrator and Systems Research Programmer, managing security for the general-purpose campus computing environment. It's nice to have a hand in protecting my alma mater—again!"

It's a hand whose reach got vastly bigger when Cisco Systems, the world's largest network and security company, bought Duo last year for a stunning $2.35 billion.

"As far as we've come, I'm excited by how much further we'll go, accelerating our growth and the reach of our mission as part of Cisco," writes Song. "Cisco views Duo as transformational to their business, bringing cloud-based user and device trustworthiness to an already impressive security product portfolio. They

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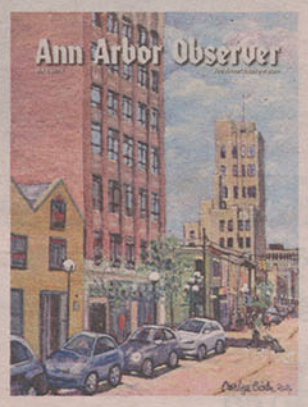

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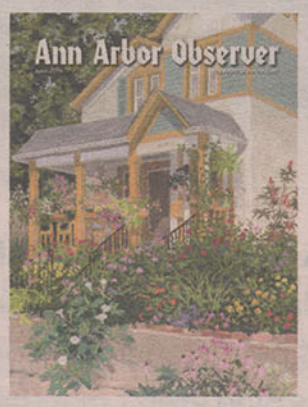

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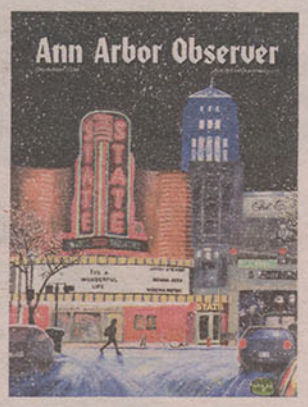

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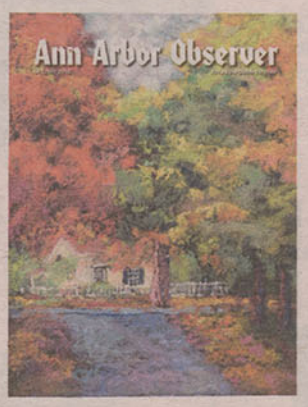

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Duo has customers in more than 100 countries now, and with Cisco's backing expects to expand even more rapidly. But they've got no plans to leave town. "Ann Arbor is Duo's headquarters," writes Jordan Fylonenko, Duo's PR manager, "and we will continue to invest in our growth here and in the local community."

That's Dug Song's long-term plan. "I'm going to help make sure Ann Arbor and Detroit are incredibly cool places to live, work and play for everybody."

Hands-On Help

A flood in the Midwest helped LimnoTech find its charitable purpose.

"We're not just a place to work and earn a wage," says CEO Paul Freedman, who co-founded the environmental consulting company in 1975 after working on water issues at the U-M. ("Limno" is Greek for "fresh water.") With projects that range from cleaning up PFAS contamination in Michigan to restoring rivers in Texas, "our firm isn't always visible within the community," he says. "But we're a part of this community, and we want to be engaged within our community."

So in 1991 the company challenged its employees to come up with creative ways to contribute to local charities. "For two years, we batted around ideas," recalls volunteer coordinator Kathy Hall. "Then in 1993, when the Midwest had widespread flooding—and water is our focus—we started a fundraising campaign to help the people affected by the floods.

"We found we really liked having a vested interest in a charitable project," says Hall, an environmental scien-

COURTESY LIMNOTECH

LimnoTech's staff like hands-on projects—these volunteers worked on a Habitat for Humanity build last summer.

tist. The result was what they call an "employee-seeded" giving program.

Approximately fifty people work at LimnoTech's headquarters in Avis Farms, and another twenty-five are scattered between offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Minneapolis. "At the end of each year, employees submit proposals for projects they are passionate about and would like to champion," Hall explains. "We select twelve, one for each month." Often speakers are invited into the office to discuss the focus, organization, or need.

"Our priorities are to get involved," Hall says. "We like to do something together—serve a meal, rehab a house, walk in support of a cause, paddle a canoe along a river. I give Paul and our management team a lot of credit for their support. Several times the company has matched donations."

"Not everyone sponsors a charity, but everyone takes part," Freedman says. "I would guess that over the year, the majority of employees has at some time sponsored and/or helped organize at least one of the monthly charities … We're not trying to replace people's individual giving programs or replace United Way. Our goal is to engage the staff in community interests and feel connected to each other and the community."

Last year LimnoTech held barbecues and build days for Habitat for Humanity, then donated supplies, household goods and clothing for the home's new occupants. At the suggestion of the company's L.A. office manager, a literacy tutor, they raised money and awareness for local literacy programs. Every other April their efforts support the Humane Society; they've worn pajamas to work and been served milk and cookies while enjoying Puppy Play Time.

In 2019, they also learned about how the B.A. Rudolph Foundation works to empower women and how the Hope Clinic's Hope for Hearing program helps community members who have lost their hearing. They enjoyed crockpot soup lunches while they supported Food Gatherers, provided funds for Christmas gifts under the sponsorship of SOS Community Services, and walked in support of the Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

"One colleague's brother took his life, so we had a speaker visit us to discuss signs of suicide," Hall explains. "He came up with the idea of a silent auction for singing telegrams. Many of our colleagues joined him in the Out of Darkness Walk, in Detroit and other cities."

In addition to the monthly fundraisers, twice a month employees deliver meals to the elderly and infirm as part of Meals on Wheels. And their daily coffee and tea donations have raised more than $7,000 for other local charities.

In recent years, LimnoTech has averaged between $15,000 and $20,000 in annual contributions beyond United Way, Hall estimates. Since the program's beginning, Freedman says, employees have poured more than $500,000 into their communities—"and we have no idea how many volunteer hours have gone into projects and programs."

In February, volunteers will help out at the MISSION/Purple House homeless center. Every March, they support the March of Dimes, an event championed by an employee who lost a child at birth.

"This family has raised more than $55,000," Hall says, "and serves as an ambassador for the program."

calls & letters

No south-side homicide

"I could not help but notice that on the crime map for November [in the January Observer], there was a homicide symbol on Birch Hollow, near where I live," David Fritsch emailed. "However, I have searched the City's web site and the Web in general, and found no reporting on this event … it's created some stress in the neighborhood."

There was no new south-side homicide—the symbol was the ghost of an old crime. An AAPD detective reviewing a cold case from the 1980s inadvertently created a new case number. That caused a symbol to appear on CrimeMapping.com, the source of the data for our own map.

Observer webmaster Valerie Mates, who also lives nearby, caught the error when she posted the map online, but by then the issue had been printed.

We apologize for the stress we caused, and will verify future homicide postings before going to press.

question corner

Q. What is the history of the red, white, and blue wind turbine that sits atop the Ann Arbor Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Fuller Rd.? Does it ever spin in the wind? Has it always been painted like an American flag?

A. The VA selected this vertical-axis wind turbine as a clean-energy demonstration project. If it had performed as advertised, such turbines could have been considered for VA facilities around the state.

The turbine failed on three occasions. Each time it was repaired or replaced on warranty, but when it failed a fourth time, the vendor was no longer in business, and the VA threw in the towel.

It has always been painted like an American flag. The cost for removal of the useless turbine is substantial, and the flag painting is cool, so it has been left to sit, motionless.

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.

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2020 spring/summer registration begins Feb. 3

Registration for all City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation summer programming begins Monday, Feb. 3. Programs include the popular day camps (**a2gov.org/camps**) at Huron Hills Golf Course and Argo, Gallup, Fuller and Buhr parks. Register early as spots are limited.

Check out the activity guide (**a2gov.org/parks**) to see all of the offerings including cultural arts programs, golf, kayak and swim instruction, volunteer opportunities and much more.

Registration for these city programs can be done at **a2gov.org/parksregister**.

Visit parks online at **twitter.com/a2parks**, **facebook.com/annarbor.parks** and **instagram.com/annarborparks.**

Parks&Recreation
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a2gov.org/parksregister
734.794.6230

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARKS

Buhr Park Ice Arena
2751 Packard Road
734.794.6234

Buhr Blitz Day
Saturday, Feb.1,
2:30-4:30 p.m.
Games, contests and prizes.

Funky Fridays
Feb. 7 and March 6, 7:15-8:45 p.m
Skate to themed music,
dress up in costumes and win prizes.

Natural Area Preservation
734.794.6627

Stewardship Workday: Presidents Day
Monday, Feb. 17, 1-3 p.m., Gallup Park.
Spend your day off volunteering to help wildlife!
Meet in the Gallup Park parking lot, just over the wooden bridge. Dress in layers.
Learn more at **a2gov.org/NAP**

Mack Indoor Pool,
715 Brooks St., 734.794.6237

Dive-in Movie
Saturday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m.
Feature: Moana. Enjoy the movie in or out of the pool!

Group Swim Lessons
Group lessons are offered for children ages 6 months and up. Class size is limited. Unless noted, swim lessons are 30 minutes. The fee is $45, resident; $55, nonresident.

Saturday Sessions
Session 5, Feb. 15-April 4
Sunday Sessions
Session 6, Feb. 16-April 5
To sign up call 734.794.6237 or **a2gov.org/parksregister**.

Ann Arbor Senior Center
1320 Baldwin Ave.
734.794.6250

GROOVE Dance Class
Every Monday through March 9, 6-7 p.m. in the Ann Arbor Senior Center gallery room. All fitness levels and abilities, for those 15 years and older, are welcome. Drop-in $10, members; $12, nonmembers.

Planning a party?

The **Ann Arbor Senior Center** offers two event spaces, or the opportunity to rent the entire building. Stop by for a tour, call 734.794.6250 or contact Brittany at **bruthven@a2gov.org**.

Veterans Memorial Indoor Ice Arena
2150 Jackson Ave.
734.794.6235

Learn-to-skate and beginner hockey

It's a great time to join the learn-to-skate and beginner hockey programs. This series will help you develop fundamental skills on ice.

Classes are available for all ages and levels. Visit **a2gov.org/parksregister** for details.

Session #4: March 16-April 25
Cost $55 resident/$67 nonresident

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Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

Furstenberg in Winter

A road less traveled

"He loved to walk here." This poignant line is chiseled in stone on a memorial boulder along the trail at Furstenberg Nature Area. Even in winter, Furstenberg offers a refreshing and peaceful walk along the Huron River.

Entry is from Fuller Rd. across the street from Huron High School. It can also be accessed from the first parking lot at Gallup Park.

Unlike Gallup, the most popular park in Ann Arbor, Furstenberg hosts just a few winter visitors. In recent walks we've never seen more than a half-dozen people on the pathways.

The trail starts near the winter-closed restrooms, curves around, and shortly comes to a fork marked by the memorial boulder. Take the right, unpaved branch to add a small eastward loop. Circling back along the river, rejoin the asphalt path briefly, then take the first right to reach the river. Navigating dirt trails, two boardwalks, and two small wooden bridges (the second is actually in Gallup Park), you emerge at Gallup's first parking lot. According to Becky Gajewski, a stewardship specialist for the city's Natural Area Preservation unit, the one-way trip is just about three-quarters of a mile.

Serenity, near-solitude, and a pervasive peacefulness prevail. On a calm afternoon, the loudest sound you hear may be the flight call of a single mallard or, less frequently, the wings of white trumpeter swans thumping as they taxi along and rise off the water.

Tree and plant forms, structures, and textures add visual interest. So does the weather; in one of our images, a dusting of snow and late-afternoon sun set off a patch of big bluestem grass.

While Furstenberg offers wetlands, woodlands, prairie, and savannah, it's small enough to make walking here an intimate experience. An interesting stump, a certain patch of moss glowing in the setting sun, a small grouping of giant oaks, may become acquaintances recognized on subsequent visits. And the river is easily and extensively viewable.

Though Furstenberg's natural landscape is carefully maintained, the hand of man is seldom visible—some benches (many also bearing memorial plaques), a small wooden platform denominated on NAP's Furstenberg map as a fishing dock, three or four stepped parallel logs down to the river intended as a canoe landing, and nest boxes for birds. The park map, downloadable from the city's website, includes an interpretive trail guide keyed to numbered wooden posts.

Note that there is no winter maintenance on the dirt paths, and riding bikes is prohibited on the boardwalks. Leashed dogs are welcome. Those that we have seen seem to be as delighted as we are by this Ann Arbor gift, a river walk less traveled. ■

PHOTOS: BOB & JORJA FELDMAN

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1 New England Journal of Medicine, nejm.org/doi/ full/10.1056/NEJMoa1613502
2 cdc.gov/VitalSigns/ pdf/2012-02-vitalsigns.pdf

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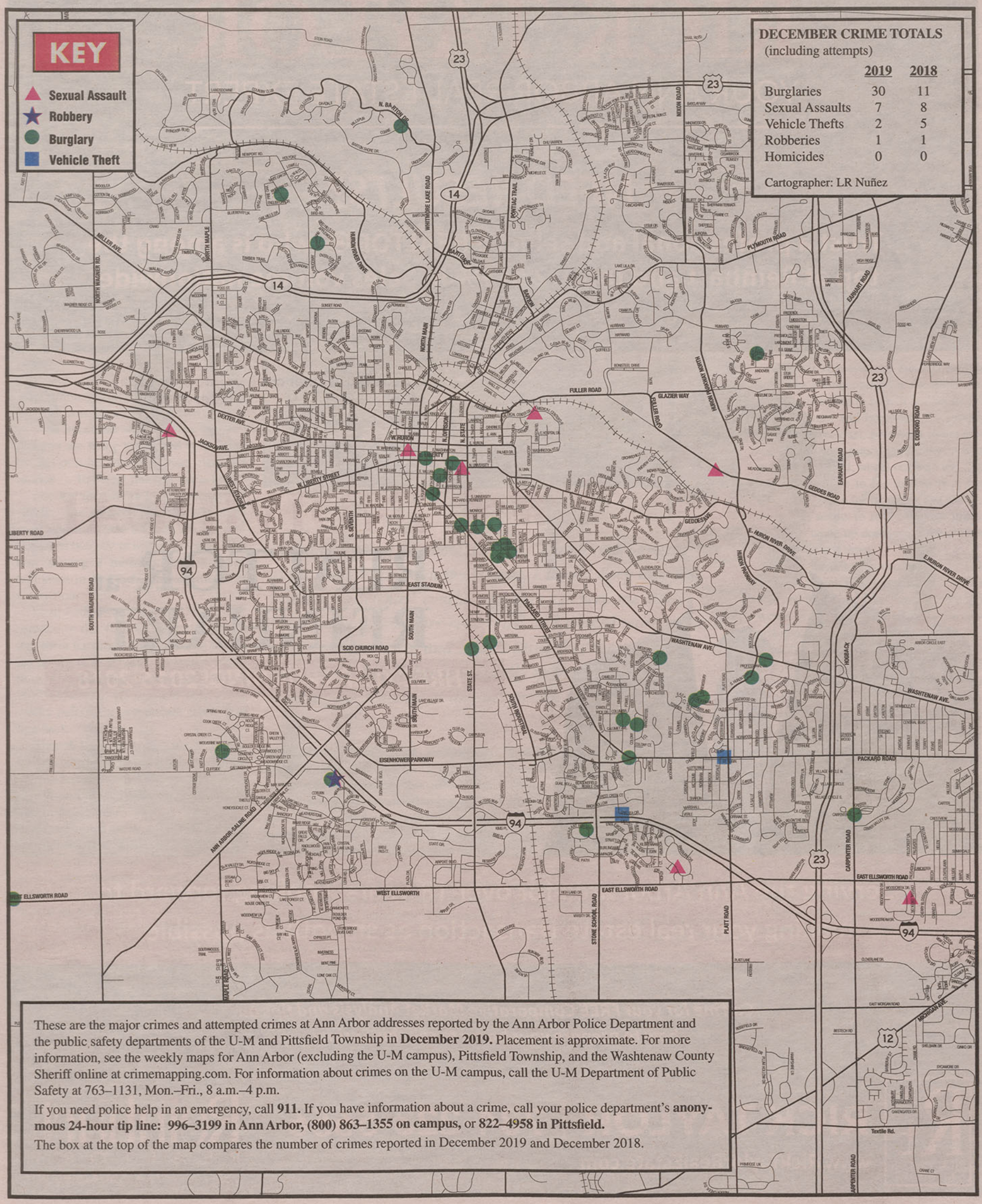
CrimeMap



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **December 2019.** Placement is approximate. For more information, see the weekly maps for Ann Arbor (excluding the U-M campus), Pittsfield Township, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff online at crimemapping.com. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at 763–1131, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in December 2019 and December 2018.

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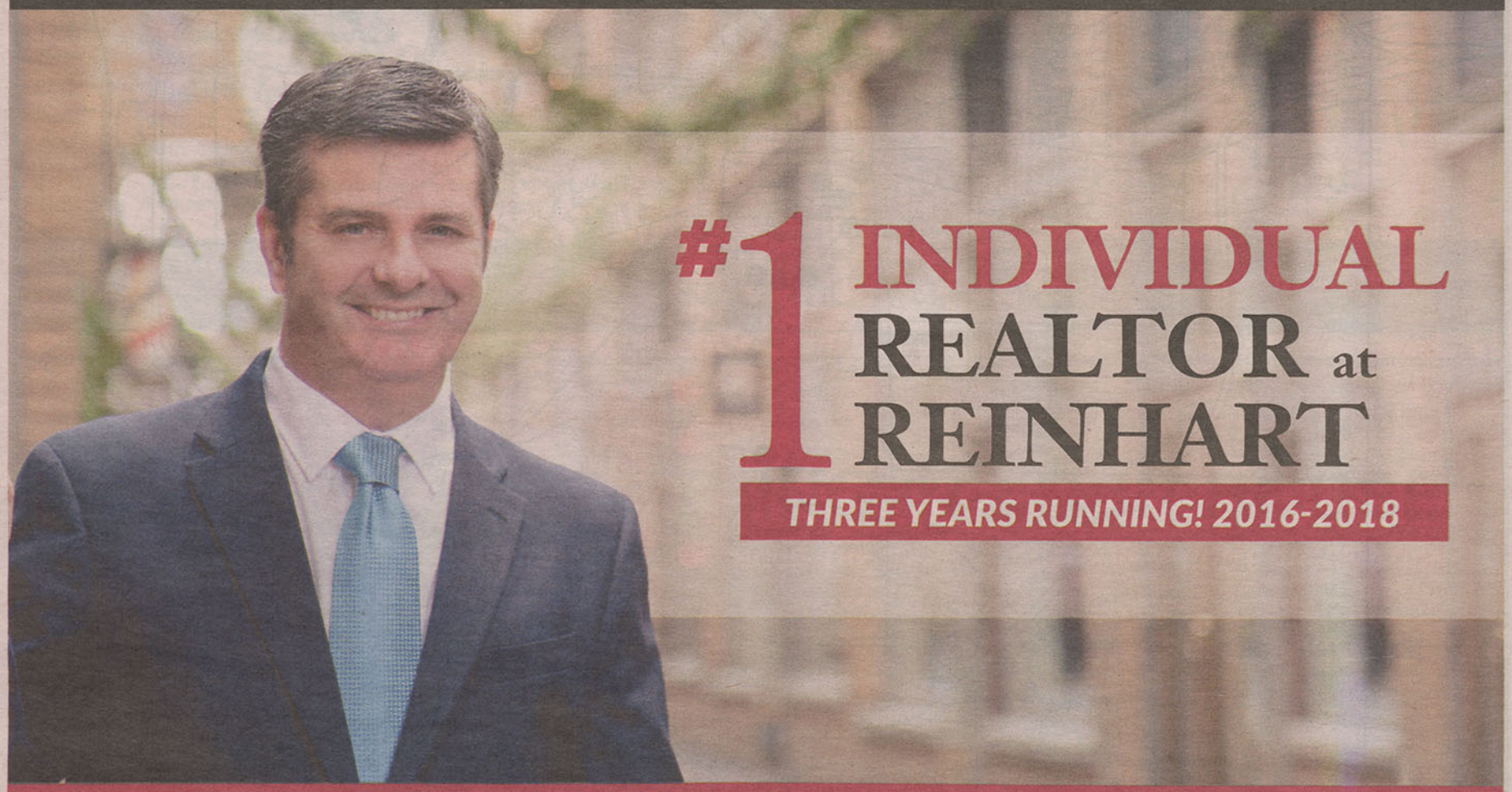

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Phone Calls from Prison

Tracking a young friend through the MDOC

I gave him $50 to pay his final probation fee, helped him write a resume, and worked with him to get a job and apartment. But then, in early April, he showed up at my door at midnight, showing all the signs of being drunk or high. He told me he was celebrating getting off probation and would soon "get it together." I provided him with bedding on the sofa in the living room. Ten minutes later, he and my car were gone.

—"Life on Probation," Ann Arbor Observer, June 2017.

ISTOCK

"This is a call from a prisoner at a correctional facility," the familiar recorded voice begins. "If you feel you are being victimized or extorted by this prisoner, please contact customer service … To accept this call, press zero."

I accept the call and am connected to "Eddie," the nineteen-year-old who three years ago stole (and totaled) my car, then carjacked two others with a fake gun. He's now serving a minimum of six-and-a-half years in the Michigan Department of Corrections.

I met Eddie during my own brief incarceration in the Washtenaw County Jail. I was there for drunk driving, Eddie for the latest of many juvenile probation violations ("A Sobering Experience," March 2017 Observer). He was out only a few weeks before the automobile thefts sent him back.

Though I was very angry about my car, I visited Eddie in jail. I wanted to understand who he was, why he made so many poor decisions, and what would happen to him next.

After he pled guilty, I followed his trek through the state corrections system. It's easier to keep in contact with incarcerated people now, because current rules allow emails, and phone calls are less expensive than in the past.

As I observe, from a distance, his life in prison, I wonder what will happen when he gets out. Will he continue to commit crimes, or will his time inside point him toward a better future outside?

When I tell Eddie that I want to write about him, he's eager to share his story. He hopes that people will see him as a whole person, he says—one who has made mistakes but also has dreams and ambitions for a good, productive life.

His life so far has been challenging. Eddie grew up in Ann Arbor and moved to Ypsilanti when he was fourteen. He says he wasn't particularly motivated in school, instead becoming an early adherent to marijuana, alcohol, and minor juvenile delinquency.

Instead of going to school, he says, "I preferred hanging out at the bus station with my friends. I would sleep on park benches, on friends' couches, anything to keep me away from home. My mother remarried and seemed more interested in the younger kids, and I don't think they wanted me around. My father is currently in the middle of a twelve-year sentence at another prison in Michigan."

He began by stealing from local stores, then, at age fifteen, escalated to grand theft auto. Eddie would enter people's homes, find their car keys, and go joyriding. He enjoyed the thrill. When we were in jail together, he boasted that two Detroit TV stations had covered his most notorious escapade: the cops had spotted him driving a stolen car, launching a high-speed chase that ended when he smashed into a fence at Willow Run Airport.

Instead of going to school, he says, "I preferred hanging out at the bus station with my friends. I would sleep on park benches, on friends' couches, anything to keep me away from home. My mother remarried and seemed more interested in the younger kids, and I don't think they wanted me around. My father is currently in the middle of a twelve-year sentence at another prison in Michigan."

Another shock was learning that he'd been adopted—his mother told him while he was in jail. "I was kicked out of three schools and ended up at the WAVE [Washtenaw Alliance for Virtual Education] program in Ypsilanti. The one positive thing I did during probation is that I stayed off smoking pot so I wouldn't 'test dirty.' "

He served time in various youth facilities, then, at age seventeen, in the adult section of the Washtenaw County Jail. (Local rules have since changed, and seventeen-year-olds are now housed in the juvenile section.)

He celebrated the end of his probation by going back to smoking pot. When I asked him later why he'd stolen three cars in one night, he said only that he wasn't "thinking."

The Michigan Department of Corrections defines recidivism as a discharged prisoner returning to prison within three years for committing another crime or violating parole. The department says that rate has declined from a high of 48 percent of people discharged in 1988 to 28 percent of those released in 2014.

The trend line is moving in the right direction, but, with Eddie's history, I worry about what the future holds for a nineteen-year-old who won't be returning to society until he's at least twenty-five.

He's currently at the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater. Given his youth and small stature, I worry that he might be assaulted, but he tells me he mostly keeps to himself and hasn't been hurt.

While he likes Lakeland, he's hoping to be transferred to one of the MDOC's Jackson facilities. The infamous walled prison there has been replaced by smaller clusters of buildings where prisoners bunk in dorm-like "units" instead of individual cells, and there he'd have a chance to further his education through a program offered in conjunction with Jackson College. Although the curriculum is geared toward business and trade studies, he says he's also interested in studying religion and philosophy.

While it's encouraging that Eddie might have educational options in the future, his current life seems to consist mainly of dull daily routines and boredom. He gets up early, has breakfast, goes back to his unit, sometimes goes outside and plays soccer in the prison yard, works out with weights, and then returns to his unit to read and sleep—he gets a lot of sleep. The one activity that seems to really interest him is art—he's taken up drawing, and works on it for hours at a time.

When we talk, I'm cautious about telling him things I'm doing for fear that it will just make him feel worse. Thinking it would give us something to talk about—and give him some perspective on his own situation—I recently sent him a copy of *The Gulag Archipelago,* Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's account of life in the notorious Siberian prisons of the Soviet Union. It's a thick book, but I figured he has plenty of time to read.

For all his missed youth and bad choices, I sense a growing maturity in Eddie. He's constantly reflecting on his mistakes, how long he has to endure prison, and all that he's missing.

In the meantime, at least I will always know where he is. I take a strange comfort in the thought that both he and society are probably safer with him removed from criminal temptations.

Meanwhile, when I see the familiar number appearing on my phone, I continue to accept his calls. I start a recent conversation by asking, "Did you get a chance to start reading the book I sent you?"

"It's really long," Eddie replies. In spite of everything, he's still a nineteen-year-old.

So again we talk about his desire to attend college as soon as possible, and his drawing. He hopes to have a piece selected for inclusion in the Michigan Prisoner Creative Arts program, a U-M initiative that displays prisoner art at locations on campus.

He says he's trying to depict what freedom will feel like "when I get out." I'm eager to see what develops.

—"John Allen"

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POLICE CHIEF MIKE COX

BY JAMES LEONARD

HE PURSUED JUSTICE AFTER BEING BEATEN BY FELLOW OFFICERS IN BOSTON. NOW HE'S OPENING UP THE AAPD.

"Some of it I can't attest to, because I just flat-out don't remember," says Mike Cox of the beating by his fellow Boston cops that changed his life and his career.

Ann Arbor's new police chief knows it began in January 1995 with a shooting death followed by a long high-speed chase. More than twenty police cars pursued four men in a single vehicle until the suspects ditched their car and ran in different directions.

Cox was the first officer out of his car. "I was in the anti-gang violence unit," he says in a soft voice. "At some point I think I was mistaken for … the people that I was chasing. They were black and they were in plain clothes, and I was black and I was in plain clothes.

"The last thing I remember is one of the people went over the fence and then I was on the fence," Cox says. He apparently fell, and the rest is hazy, except for the pain.

MARK BIALEK

He doesn't know how many cops beat him "because, even looking up, I got hit.

"I had multiple injuries," Cox continues. "I had a pretty bad … scar that my hair still doesn't grow over … My kidneys were messed up, [and] the ligaments in my thumb [were torn]."

The beating stopped only when a cop recognized Cox. But instead of helping or calling for emergency medical treatment, they left him bleeding and kept their mouths shut afterwards.

Cox was out of work for six months recovering from his injuries. Despite multiple internal investigations, no officers were identified as taking part in the beating, and no one came forward to admit responsibility.

"I don't know if it was a cover-up," Cox says. "But the fact is [the officers involved] didn't get caught and [they] didn't come clean." He finally sued the department to get to the truth and "was able to prove a certain amount of people were involved."

He won a financial settlement and three cops were fired—but the only conviction was overturned on appeal, and two officers were reinstated. It sounds like a case study for the Black Lives Matter movement. But asked if his experience is an example of bad policing or police violence against black men, Cox replies, "I hadn't thought of that."

To him, it's a case study in management—a "reminder" that police departments have to police themselves. "We have a lot of regulations, [but] you have to make sure people are being held responsible for what they do."

The incident forced Cox to reconsider the career he loved. "I thought I was doing God's work," he says sincerely. "I thought I was *the* police officer. My partner and I, we were very active, and I'd say very, very good officers.

"But the fact is I had a choice between walking away … or digging in and fixing something."

He didn't walk. "If I was going to be in policing, it was gonna get better, and I was gonna make sure of that."

Cox stayed with the Boston PD, rising through the ranks from sergeant detective to internal affairs division commander, and finally to superintendent in the police academy. When he retired after thirty years, he says, the department had "changed tremendously" for the better, with much more transparency and accountability.

Most cops start young, and Cox was no exception. For him, as for many other officers, retirement didn't mean leaving policing. In September, he was sworn in as Ann Arbor's fourth police chief in seven years.

The department had struggled to implement a community policing policy for years, but the need became urgent after the 2014 shooting death of a knife-wielding black woman by an Ann Arbor cop.

The officer was determined to have acted in self-defense, but protests led city council to create a civilian police oversight commission. And when it was time to hire a new chief, the city specified that it wanted one who would make community policing standard operating procedure. Cox's Boston experiences made him the candidate most likely to lead the changes.

> TO COX, COMMUNITY POLICING STARTS WITH BETTER COMMUNICATION.

To Cox, community policing starts with better communication. Police "have a rich tradition of not wanting to explain ourselves," he says. "That's part of the problem. We know we're right [and] don't need to explain."

The new chief thinks otherwise. "We need to have a strong communication with the public," he says. City council already has approved his request for an officer to assist the oversight commission, and he's hoping that they'll let him add a public information officer in the next budget.

With a dedicated communication liaison, Cox says, "we can make sure that the flow of information is happening quicker than what it currently does. And more importantly, it's a single source of information, so we're always on the same page."

Cox says he's also working to "reinvigorate" the city's citizen crime-watch groups. "We had a meeting [with] thirty-something people representing all these different crime-watch groups," he says. "We've been trying to set up more meetings throughout the city to get them up and running again. City council is helping us find places to set up some of these watches."

Some of that help is coming in his monthly meetings with each ward's councilmembers. They "talk about things," he says. "I explain our perspective, what we're seeing, what's going on, [and they tell me] any concerns they might have."

The creation of the oversight commission was highly acrimonious, but Cox seems satisfied with the result. As a "representative of the public," he sees the commission as an asset to community policing. "Their role is to come in, ask questions … and look at the facts and circumstances" when the department's performance is questioned.

He expects it to be a two-way communication, with members giving the department an independent view of its work but also explaining police work to folks with complaints, and, if appropriate, to the public in general.

Cox says the initial reaction to his efforts within the department is "good," and he believes it'll get better—community policing, he points out, is "the fun part of the job.

"We're not locking people up. We're not wrestling. We're not fighting. It's a different form of policing, and most people tend to like it." He's already initiated more foot patrols in the malls and downtown to give officers a taste of it.

Cox says he'd like to think that what happened to him in Boston "wouldn't ever happen in Ann Arbor. But I would never say that it couldn't happen here. I do know this: I will … do everything possible to make sure that the conditions here won't make it likely."

The AAPD's top job has recently been a revolving door, with successive chiefs retiring and moving on within a few years. But Cox wants to break that pattern—he says he'd like this to be his last police job.

"I'm fifty-four," he says. "I hope to work for ten more years, hopefully, if they'll have me." ■

> "WE'RE NOT LOCKING PEOPLE UP. WE'RE NOT WRESTLING. WE'RE NOT FIGHTING. IT'S A DIFFERENT FORM OF POLICING, AND MOST PEOPLE TEND TO LIKE IT."

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CAT CARTY BUSWELL

FARMING 2.0

IDEALISTIC YOUNG FARMERS FACE *the* CHALLENGE *of* MAKING *a* LIVING *from the* LAND

by Trilby MacDonald

Much of Washtenaw County is zoned for agriculture, and the county's rural charms are jealously protected by community groups and conservation boards that limit new developments and buy up development rights to ensure that wide-open spaces will continue to dominate the landscape.

While there is no shortage of farmland close to Ann Arbor, farmers themselves are something of an endangered species locally. When agriculture is done right, it's a beautiful thing, nourishing land, body, and spirit. Yet all the value our local farms provide doesn't necessarily generate enough income for those who run them to survive. And even when they are profitable, the long hours, physical strain, and psychological stress of working with a host of variables that are out of a farmer's control can cause burnout. With so much to master, farm businesses are considered by the USDA to be in their beginning phase for a full decade.

About ten years ago in Ann Arbor, a surge in demand for local food and new sources of support for farm enterprises caused a spike in the number of young farmers eager to have their own places. My then-husband and I were among them.

Some of us have since reached the end of our road. But others are banding together to form a groundbreaking new enterprise that might be the key to their enduring success. And in an unusual twist, one farmer is leaving the security of a job with the city to focus on farming full-time.

Tomm Becker and I started Sunseed Farm in 2009 on rented land on Joy Rd. Tomm had several years of farming experience and took charge of the operation, and I raised kids and played a supporting role with marketing and a small flower program.

We had no money or experience running a business, but we had boundless energy and idealism, the kind of spirit that pervaded the local food scene at the time. Walking into Selma Cafe, a weekly fundraising breakfast, a farmer felt like a celebrity. Ann Arbor was fertile ground for new farms, with affluent, educated, food-savvy consumers. Hungry for gorgeous food, many even shouldered some of the risks of farming through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), paying cash up front for a share of the crop at harvest.

The burgeoning local food movement was focused on helping more farms get their start. Graduates of MSU's Student Organic Farm fanned out across Michigan and the country, but accessing the capital to acquire land and equipment to start their operations was a huge barrier to entry. Jeff McCabe and others started the Tillian Farm Development Center in 2011 on a forty-four-acre plot of conserved farmland on Pontiac Tr. with a rustic old barn and grassy fields bisected by a dusty two-track. Tillian offered ground, equipment, hoop houses, and guidance to help new farms take root.

Alex Cacciari and Mark Nowak were in Tillian's first cohort. After two seasons in the incubator they struck out on their own, renting a thirty-acre homestead on Warren, a narrow dirt road a few miles north of downtown. Guinea hens and chickens forage freely, occasionally getting into noisy scuffs with Nina, the bossy farm dog.

Banks regard farms as risky investments, but the couple were able to get financing in 2016. Two years later, they put their land into a conservation easement and have gradually built hoop houses, a barn, and a pretty little greenhouse.

The land had been fallow for years and was pretty weedy but fertile. With a lot of TLC, Cacciari and Nowak have been able to grow a cornucopia of vegetables and flowers, that they sell through farmers' markets, grocery stores, the Michigan Flower Growers' Cooperative, restaurants, and a CSA.

New breeds like an ultra-sweet single-serving butternut squash keep buyers intrigued. Flower sales, including new

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arrivals like fragrant heirloom roses and peonies in a range of show-stopping colors, have shot up. Next season they will begin growing herbs for Arbor Teas.

"Every spring I have a resurgence of optimism," Cacciari says. "A small-scale diversified farm is mutable. We can always try something new. When you're willing to be diverse, you have your insurance policy built in."

Some variables are more challenging to accommodate than others, however. "Competition is real," Cacciari admits. "This is the sad truth. As progressive as everyone is, it is still a limited market."

Nate and Jill Lada were also in Tillian's first cohort. After two seasons in the incubator program, their Green Things Farm business bought a coveted sixty-acre plot of abandoned farmland on Nixon Rd. with financing from Nate's parents. Certified organic since 2016, they sell vegetables through a CSA, farmers' markets, and restaurants; grow a profusion of beautiful flowers; raise Red Devon and British White cattle, and hold festive dinner and music events all summer long.

Having that much land close to town was a huge advantage for a farming couple in their twenties. Or so it seemed. "Ten years in, I realize that I should have looked at the land first," Nate laments. "It's like we adopted an abused child." Despite efforts to diversify, they discovered it's not possible to grow the amount of organic food necessary to support a family on land so degraded. Rehabilitating their soil to make it more productive is still a long way off, and there are many other facets of a farm business that also have to be managed.

By the end of the 2019 season, Jill was done. "I felt like I wasn't meeting my own expectations," she says. She started to look for other work.

Eric Kampe, owner of Ann Arbor Seed Company, knows that story well. "The reality is that my spouse has an off-farm job which floats us," he concedes. "No other business is like this—a car mechanic would never work for years until his business is profitable."

After eight years of running all aspects of his business himself, Kampe is through being a sole proprietor.

"I have challenges as a grower—weather, crops, poor soil, pests," he says. "But that's only half the battle." Learning how to manage production, marketing, and business management when you never know what nature will throw at you takes a long time, and his has run out.

"Solo farming just doesn't make sense," admits Hannah Rose Weber, owner and sole full-time employee of the Land Loom since 2014. After five years in business at Tillian, she has her systems dialed in, with perfect rows, a bounty of gleaming produce, and delighted customers. But she, too, has reached a breaking point.

"Older-generation farmers were not good land stewards, but they had systems and resource sharing that allowed them to have a livelihood," she says. Younger farmers, particularly of diversified small farms, don't typically inherit land or infrastructure and lack the granges, food hubs, and family labor that older generations rely on to get their product to market. "I am seeing the need to move towards collaboration," she says. So she's joining Kampe, the Ladas, and longtime Green Things employee Michelle Brosius to launch a bold new enterprise called the Green Things Farm Collective.

"We realized that together we could be something greater than we are as individuals," Jill says. "Such a weight has been lifted from my shoulders!"

By the end of the 2019 season, JILL LADA WAS DONE. *"I felt like I wasn't meeting my own expectations," she says.* SHE STARTED LOOKING FOR OTHER WORK.

The partners will unite their popular businesses under one brand, with each farmer focusing on a certain set of responsibilities. Weber, who writes beautifully and loves interacting with the public, will handle marketing. "To separate yourself from the organic products people can buy at the supermarket, you have to sell your story," she says.

The collective plans to increase production and adopt an online ordering platform called "Barn 2 Door." They will begin implementing "no-till" farming and will roll out a full schedule of summer celebrations in 2020.

"Most farmers end up tying up all of their assets into the farm, because they are making such a low wage all their lives," says Nate Lada. When it's time to retire, there are few good options—sell the farm to developers or allow their heirs to take over. But without liquid assets farmers are stuck, and their heirs have to support them.

The genius of Green Things Farm Collective is flexibility. "What we are creating is a model that has a clear transition into business ownership and also has clearly defined ways to leave ownership," Nate explains. "In the short term,

MARK BIALEK

"EVERY SPRING I HAVE A RESURGENCE OF OPTIMISM," SAYS SEELEY FARM'S ALEX CACCIARI (L., WITH HUSBAND MARK NOWAK).

Jill and I maintain ownership of the land and the infrastructure but have a perpetual lease to the collective to farm here. In the medium to long term, if this is a successful model, we would sell the land to the collective, and Jill and I would have assets to retire. Built into this is a valuation process so that if anyone wants to leave they can be bought out." Their multimember LLC is the only one they know of that joins together preexisting farm businesses.

The collective can look to White Lotus Farms for inspiration. Located on W. Liberty a few miles from downtown Ann Arbor, White Lotus began as a small organic vegetable farm founded by Lama Traktung Rinpoche (Stuart Kirkpatrick) as a way to support his Buddhist community. One of their members, Trinle Tsomo, is a baker, and the beautiful loaves he turned out of their little oven were an instant sensation. As the bread business grew, they bought a few goats and added a creamery. Then Trinle's wife, Jessica, started a line of Ayurvedic body products.

Business has bloomed since the pivot from vegetables to value-added products. All are marketed under the White Lotus brand, and profits are shared.

Stephanie Willette and her husband, Taik Fountaine, own a diversified vegetable, flower, and animal farm in Grass Lake called Two Tracks Acres. As the couple approach the ten-year mark in their operation, Willette is taking a bold step: she's leaving her job as manager of the Ann Arbor Farmers Market to farm full-time.

"Having an off-farm job was key to this process," she explains. "It allowed us to pay off debt and buy land while we built up our markets and figured out what worked." But between the farm and her city job, she felt "torn in two directions." The couple also have a toddler, further dividing her time and attention. While other farmers are taking off-farm work in the winter, Willette is looking forward to focusing her efforts on her business and her family.

By 2017, Sunseed's CSA had 100-plus shares, fifteen acres in cultivation, tons of equipment, an eight-person crew, and seven hoops. But we were on the ropes. Sunseed was overly reliant on CSA sales, and we paid higher salaries than we could rightly afford. Our farm wasn't powered by grandparents invisibly balancing the books with free childcare. And you can charge only so much for vegetables.

"People don't want to pay [well] for the things that they need, like vegetables, because they consider it to be a right," says Weber. "They pay for the things that they want. That's why flowers are lucrative."

I cofounded the Michigan Flower Growers' Cooperative in 2016 with Alex Cacciari and Amanda Maurmann. I had hoped to move more of Sunseed's production in that direction, but ended up parting ways with Tomm and the farm instead. The farm closed the following year, as did several other small farms that started around the same time.

While there are more ways to buy local food than ever before, farmers are coming up against the limits of the local food market. There are new farmers' markets but none of them is packed, selling CSA shares is a constant hustle, and moving product to restaurants at prices and volumes that are realistic is a challenge. With mass-produced organic food increasingly cheap and widely available at supermarkets, many health-conscious shoppers are happy to look no further.

If small is beautiful, then small farmers may have to be content with reaching a limited market, and there may never be more than a handful that make it. But if the goal is to have a sizable portion of our food grown on local farms, then those farms will have to scale up—and markets will have to open up. ■

Next month: some innovative strategies that farmers and institutions are using to help expand the market for locally grown food.

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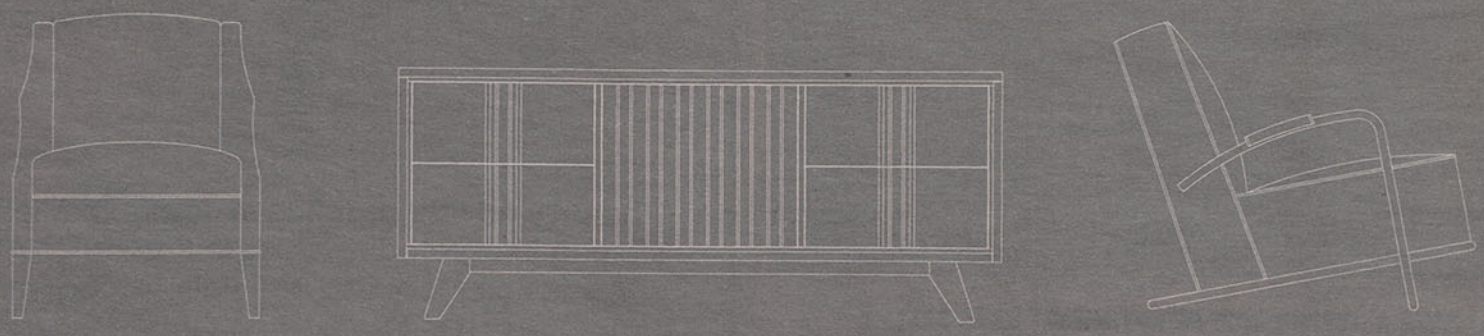

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LOVE AND ART

With some help from the Internet, Matt Shlian and Thea Eck have built a life in a precarious profession.

by Steve Gilzow

After doing "the long-distance thing" throughout their twenties, they surprised everyone with a canoeing party that turned into a wedding.

As a youngster, Matt Shlian says, he was "an anomaly in my family." Like most people in their prosperous Connecticut suburb, his parents held white-collar jobs: his father was an accountant, his mom a special-needs teacher. But Matt "grew up taking things apart, playing the drums, and drawing all the time."

At Alfred University, a small school in western New York, he studied art. And there, his love of rhythm introduced him to fellow artist Thea Eck.

She'd grown up in Pittsburgh, inheriting a love of culture and art from her parents, floriculturists who frequented the ballet and symphony during the school year, then led tours of historic European gardens in the summer.

Matt, thirty-nine, and Thea, forty, alternate in telling the story.

"My best friend was friends with Matt, but I didn't know him," Thea says. "Matt played the drums. My best friend—she was also my roommate—wanted to learn how to play. Junior year, we set it up that Matt could store his drums at our house if he gave her lessons.

"One day, she was supposed to have a drum lesson but wasn't there. Matt came to the house. I was hanging out, and I let him in. I told him, 'She should be here soon … maybe.' But she was notorious for not showing up for drum lessons."

"She ghosted me," laughs Matt. "At a certain point I stopped teaching her lessons to teach *her*, I was just hanging out with you. That's how I remember it. Then we shared studio space our senior year."

"Yeah," Thea agrees, "we had studio spaces right next to each other all year long, so we ..." her voice trails, laughingly searching for the right words, "… fell in love with each other."

"I wore her down," Matt finishes, "I wore her down over time."

"There were a lot of breakups and back-togethers, depending on where we were," Thea adds. "We did long-distance for all of our twenties. There were only a couple months in those years when we lived together." But their paths converged again in 2005 at grad school in Michigan, and in 2012 they invited family and friends to what was ostensibly an afternoon of canoeing followed by a lunch at Gallup Park.

"So in the middle of the party we're just like, 'Oh, I think we're going to have a wedding!' " Thea says. "People are, like, 'we're *what*?' " The only person they'd let in on the plan was her best friend from Pittsburgh, who had gone online to be "ordained" so he could officiate.

"My mom was *furious*," says Matt, drawing out the word. "People still talk about it, because it was like a non-wedding."

In an interview at Matt's studio, the couple take turns holding eight-month-old daughter Loden. A few blocks away, six-year old Fjora (the "j" sounds like a "y") is spending her morning at Ann Arbor Open School.

They're not only parents but Ann Arbor homeowners. It's a modest house on the northwest side, and Thea has her studio in half of the garage. Still, it's a stellar achievement for a family supported entirely by art.

Their path to artistic independence was only a little less winding than their path toward marriage.

Three days after graduating from Alfred University, Matt began designing pop-up books for Structural Graphics in Connecticut. Thea worked at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh before heading to Ghana for six months on a research grant.

Matt came to Cranbrook Academy of Art for an MFA program in 2004. The following year, Thea left Boston, where she'd been an artist assistant to the sculptor Ellen Driscoll, and began her MFA at the U-M.

It would seem this move was based on Matt being at Cranbrook, but he recalls, "I think we were broken up at the time."

"Yeah, might have been," agrees Thea. "I think coming here might have been an unconscious thing, at least with the relationship. My first semester here, we got back together."

Matt completed his MFA in 2006, Thea finished hers in 2008. His love of rhythm—and form, pattern, and structure—was finding expression in paper, not drums.

"Paper engineering" is the name given to the art he makes, but the term doesn't convey the sense of movement and life pulsing in his work. His Cranbrook thesis piece, "Misfold," was an elaborate paper sculpture that straddled the worlds of art, engineering, and science.

Before leaving Cranbrook, he sent a DVD packet of his work to fifty U-M scientists. Most didn't know what to make of it, but one of them passed the DVD to a colleague, saying, "You're doing stuff that's kind of weird—check this out. Should we have this guy over to give a seminar?"

Max Shtein's academic affiliations included chemistry, materials science, and macromolecular science. "I wasn't sure what macromolecular was," Matt admits.

"The stuff we were trying to do at that time involved fibers and textiles," Shtein recalls, "doing engineering in three dimensions in a way that was kind of unusual and somewhat tricky for us to visualize. Matt had this interesting facility in figuring out how to go to three dimensions, to translate between two dimensions and three dimensions."

A lengthy collaboration developed, including a concept for a more efficient solar cell (it was patented but never commercialized), a $2 million NSF teaching and research grant, and a course in the art school that combined art and engineering. But Shtein says while Matt had fun co-teaching, he wasn't interested in a university career. He recalls Matt's attitude as, " 'Look, I want to make art. This is distracting me from making art, and I don't have time for the B.S.' "

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LOVE AND ART

Matt's Instagram account is approaching 70,000 followers, and he has more than thirty art consultants nationwide "constantly pushing and showing my work."

Matt's studio is on the second floor of an old gray warehouse at 416 W. Huron, across from the YMCA. Built in 1927 by the Artificial Ice Co., it's now home, in his words, to "a bunch of weirdos who need space somewhat downtown but don't really want to have [a] storefront." His neighbors include Random Games & Toys, Common Cycle, and Tasty Bakery.

His own studio was once the Wild Swan Theater's rehearsal studio. "I rent this space and sublet it out. We have a painter over here, Kara does jewelry, Jean does textile design, then I have two architects in the back. It's a real hodgepodge."

The artworks he makes are often labor-intensive, requiring dozens of pieces to be cut by a flatbed plotter scanner then folded and glued. To help, Matt recently took on an assistant, nineteen-year-old Colin Hunter from Bozeman, Montana.

His go-to framer is Ray Anderson, whom he calls "a framer from heaven." A generally self-effacing craftsman who has purposely kept his business "below the radar," Anderson admits to taking special satisfaction in finding ways to protect Matt's large, fragile pieces while still affording viewers optimal sightlines not only from the front but often from the sides as well.

"I don't know any other framer who would be willing and able to do the technical aspect of what I'm trying to do with Matt," Anderson says. And he's pleased that in the process they have become friends.

The pieces defy easy description, but many evoke Islamic tile work. Some may remind you of windblown wheat stalks, others the scales of a curling pangolin. Mott Children's Hospital has an arch-shaped kinetic piece, activated by a motion sensor, endlessly emerging and resolving into itself as you approach. There's a video of it online at mattshlian.com, and another of a spectacular piece he made with children in a 2013 *Sesame Street* segment.

Thea has her own site, theaeck.com, to display her installations and gallery works. Her interest in themes around polar exploration, such as the Shackleton Antarctic expedition of 1914–17, manifests itself in objects—a sledge laden with stones—and photos—a lonely, white-clad figure beneath a string of black weather balloons.

"I was seeking to visualize loss and longing," she says, and polar narratives "seemed to fit perfectly into that." The name of the couple's sales website, eightemperors.com, is a tribute to the emperor penguins that, Shackleton wrote, wailed as the Antarctic ice crushed his ship.

Thea's main site hasn't been updated lately, and Eight Emperors currently features only Matt's work. Her own online store, hostadesigns.com, was closed for maternity leave with Loden through January. But she has continued to take commissions, currently working in wood shaped with a CNC (computer numerical control) router—she worked for several years for its manufacturer, ShopBot. Among her projects is a large installation for NSF International on Dixboro Rd. (unfortunately off-limits to the public) and a smaller one done jointly with Matt for the Nightcap lounge on Main St.

Returning to gallery work will have to wait till Loden is more self-sufficient. "I can handle the design work and making functional things" while caring for an infant, she explains, "but the conceptual work takes a lot more nuance that I don't have right now in my sleep-deprived state."

The Internet is what allows Matt and Thea to make livings in Ann Arbor as artists. Matt's Instagram account is approaching 70,000 followers, and he says more than thirty art consultants nationwide "are constantly pushing and showing my work." Clients range from individuals spending a few hundred dollars for the first art purchase of their lives to wealthy collectors spending "thousands and thousands" at Art Miami. Apple, Procter & Gamble, Facebook, Levi's, and many other businesses have sought Matt's work.

The couple enjoys living in Ann Arbor. They walk to work, to Fjora's school, and to many events. There's a park across the street from their home. They value having access to good hospitals and they love the Ann Arbor District Library—"It's awesome," Thea says.

"We have the world's best library," Matt affirms.

They've seen what friends with children go through in New York City and want no part of it. And they love the opportunities for collaboration—a word that pops up repeatedly in their conversation.

Thea is on the exhibitions committee for the Ann Arbor Art Center and is president of A2Geeks, the group behind what was once called the A2 Mini Maker Faire and is now called AACME (Ann

Arbor Creativity & Making Expo). Billed as an "annual do-it-yourself carnival," the event offers participants the opportunity to "bring your home made robot, learn to solder, walk on oobleck, build and race a stock car, see a supersonic ping-pong ball."

But even though they are making a living as artists in Ann Arbor, they note the limitations of the local art scene. As Thea puts it, "There's the voice that says, 'Yes, we love Art Fair in the summer, but we're not going to support the arts year-round. But we're still going to call ourselves an art city.'" They see a certain lack of openness and opportunity for younger artists and professional artists. "There's conflicting views on what art is and can be in Ann Arbor. There's the Art Center, at which I sit on the gallery exhibitions committee. And the university has their own contemporary visual art programming. But there needs to be more on the town side of things, more contemporary spaces to show. It seems like …"

"… like there's room for a third space," Matt says, finishing her thought.

Matt is motivated to get interesting art into public spaces. "I have Crohn's disease. I'm in hospitals a lot, and I'm always struck by how bad the art is in doctors' rooms and offices. It's just depressing. So there is an opportunity to maybe take you out of whatever situation you're in. The work I've done in hospitals by far has been some of the most rewarding. When that piece went up at Mott, the piece that is moving in the lobby, it helped people, it affected people, it made a difference, and people would tell me it made a difference."

It took awhile to realize that, though. When he went back to document the piece a few months after it was installed, "The glass was a mess. At first I was like, 'What's going on? This glass is filthy.' And then I realized, 'Oh, I get it. Those are noseprints. Kids' noseprints. OK, it's a successful piece.' That's how you know it's being interacted with and people are enjoying it.

"We went to fix the piece—the Tyvek [material] worked, but the right-angle drive, some part of the motor, had to be replaced." Bob Stack of Right Brain Fabrication—"he's my roboticist"—was working underneath, and Matt "was holding something up.

"This guy came over to us and said, 'Oh, are you replacing this? Are you putting something else there?' I said, 'No, we're just fixing it. This drive isn't working.'

"He said, 'This is my daughter's favorite piece. When we walk around the hospital, this is the one she wants to stop at.' She'd been there for weeks getting some kind of treatment.

"So, when I told him I was the artist who made the piece, he hugged me. He said, 'Thank you.' I was really moved by that."

Later this year, Matt has a book coming out, giving an overview of the past ten years of his work. The foreword will be written by the nationally known author and *New Yorker* staff writer Lawrence Weschler. The title?

Unfolding. ■

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Sun **2/16** at 7 pm
Michigan Theater

Benin-born artist and global pop star Angélique Kidjo reclaims rock for Africa and brings the Talking Heads' landmark 1980 album, Remain in Light, full circle 40 years after it was released. The original was deeply influenced by music from West Africa and Kidjo injects it with her euphoric singing, explosive percussion, horn orchestrations, and select lyrics performed in languages from her home country.

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Media Partners: **WEMU 89.1 FM, WRCJ 90.9 FM, WDET 101.9 FM,** and **Ann Arbor's 107one**

Budapest Festival Orchestra

Iván Fischer, conductor
Renaud Capuçon, violin

Thu **2/20** at 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

—

ALL-DVOŘÁK PROGRAM

Legends, Op. 59, No. 10
Four Choruses, Op. 29, No. 1 ("Místo klekáni")
Slavonic Dance in c minor, Op. 46, No. 7
Violin Concerto in a minor, Op. 53
Symphony No. 8, Op. 88

—

Patron Sponsor: **UMS Ambassadors**

Media Partner: **WGTE 91.3 FM**

Dorrance Dance
by Dana Lynn Pleasant

Dorrance Dance *Myelination*

Michelle Dorrance, artistic director and choreographer

Fri-Sat **2/21-22** at 8 pm
Power Center

Dorrance Dance honors tap dance's uniquely beautiful history in a new and dynamically compelling context, pushing it rhythmically, aesthetically, and conceptually.

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Presenting Sponsors: **Matt and Nicole Lester Family**

Supporting Sponsors: **Kathy Legatski**, in memory of her late husband, Leo

Patron Sponsors: **Agnes Moy-Sarns and David Sarns** and **Valerie and Jeff Wilpon**

Funded in part by: **National Endowment for the Arts** and **Arts Midwest Touring Fund**

Media Partners: **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, WDET 101.9 FM**, and **Metro Times**

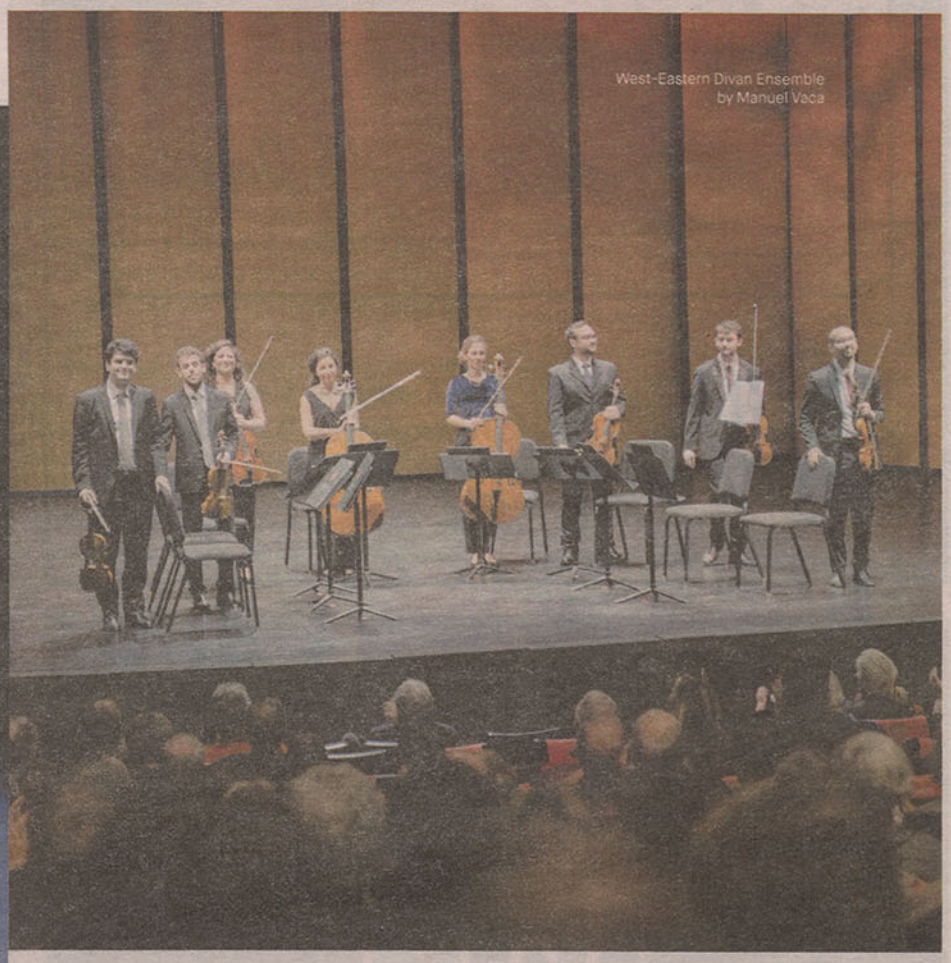
HD Broadcast
Bolshoi Ballet *Giselle*

Choreography by **Alexei Ratmansky**

Sun **2/23** at 7 pm
Michigan Theater

The young peasant girl Giselle dies of a broken heart when she learns that the man she loves, Albrecht, has betrayed her. The Wills, vengeful spirits of jilted brides, rouse her spirit and induct her into their clan. They condemn Albrecht to dance until he dies of exhaustion, but Giselle's true love spares him that fate, and she is released from the power of the Wills.

Co-presented with the Michigan Theater.



West-Eastern Divan Ensemble
by Manuel Vaca

West-Eastern Divan Ensemble

Michael Barenboim, music director and violin

Wed **2/26** at 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

—

PROGRAM

Brahms	String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 18
Tartini	Devil's Trill Sonata in g minor for Solo Violin
Benjamin Attahir	Jawb
Mendelssohn	String Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20

—

The West-Eastern Divan Ensemble brings together aspiring Israeli and Arab musicians, defying fierce political divides while promoting intercultural dialogue and coexistence through their work.

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Media Partner: **WGTE 91.3 FM**

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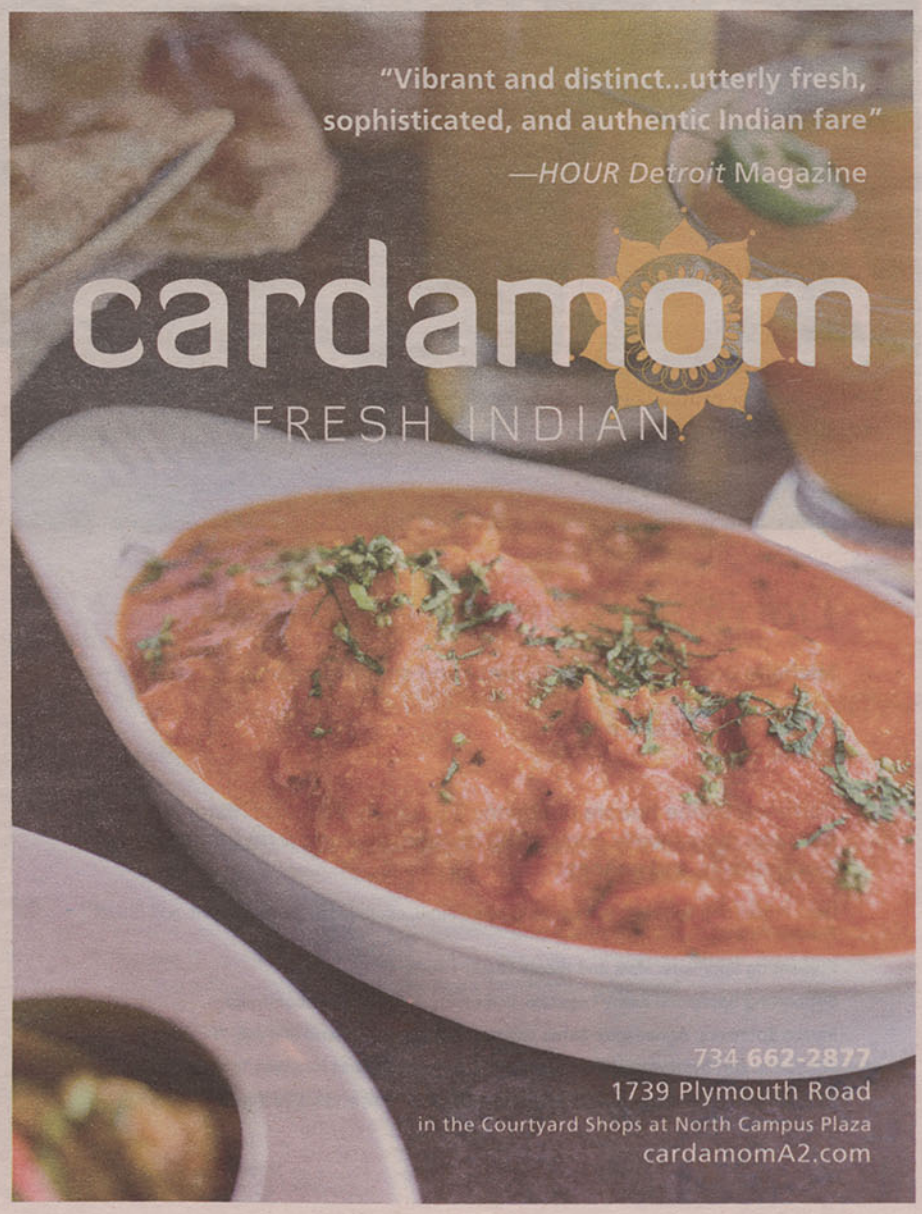

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Boba Battle

Taste testing bubble teas

Originating in Taiwan, bubble tea has been migrating across the world for the last four decades. Locally, Bubble Island introduced the trendy drink, with its colorful straws and chewy tapioca "bubbles," in 2002. Ann Arbor boba seekers had an abundance of options even before franchises from Taiwan-based chains Chatime and CoCo Fresh opened last year.

I discovered bottled milk tea at an anime store called Wizzywig twenty years ago. I wasn't sure at first that adding bubbles (also known as boba) would improve it, but it was love at first sip. And when I began ordering bubble tea to be delivered to the Observer office, I found I wasn't alone in my fondness for this tasty beverage.

Discussing our favorite drinks, we realized we have a wide range of likes. That led to a plan for a joint tasting. Accompanying me in this journey were calendar editors Ella and Maggie, Marketplace Changes writer Sabine, and designer LR.

We ordered classic milk tea with bubbles from Bubble Island, Chatime, CoCo Fresh, and Sweeting's South U location. If adjusting the sweetness was an option, we chose 30 percent. And, just for fun, we ordered a flavored drink from each place. Since flavor options vary, we didn't include those reviews in the final tallies.

Sampling so many teas side by side opened our eyes to aspects we may have otherwise missed. But though the results surprised me and a few others, they haven't changed our bubble tea drinking habits. We still have our favorite places that we enjoy for our own reasons.

With a table full of labeled paper cups—and some spills from less than ideal pouring—our tasting began. We each scored each drink separately for tea, bubbles, and overall flavor/quality; looking over menus, we also rated the selection at each place. The chart averages those results, with five bubbles being our most liked and one being the least.

Chatime and CoCo Fresh tied for first for tea flavor, with Sweeting a close second. While the others can adjust sweetness levels to order, Bubble Island's brew is premade, and its overpowering sweetness put it in last place for most—though not all—reviewers. (If you ask, they will make it less sweet by mixing it with their green tea.)

Though Maggie lived in Taiwan as a student, this was her first experience with Chatime. She was happy to find she enjoyed it quite a lot. Both LR and I, longtime Sweeting patrons, were surprised to find we liked Chatime's tea flavor best. (LR even asked to taste blindfolded, so she could give an unbiased opinion.)

Our sweet-tooth tasters, on the other hand, described Chatime, CoCo Fresh, and Sweeting with terms like "bold" and "bitter." It's true—with less sugar, more tea flavor comes through.

KATHERINE DOWNIE

Those of us who enjoy a light sweetness noted the creaminess and strength of our favorites' flavors. And we all found that the brewed teas from CoCo Fresh, Chatime, and Sweeting carried more flavor than those made from powdered mixes. For those, comments included "chalky" and "watery."

Whether you call them boba or pearls, the tapioca balls are what make bubble tea special. While you can get many other mix-ins, from pudding to red beans, for this test we stuck with the classic milk tea. (Fun tip: A number of our reviewers noted that cafés let them sample many of their other toppings, especially when business is slow.)

It was no surprise to find the bubbles from each place tasted very similar—what really set them apart was quality and consistency of texture. Some we found overly mushy or overcooked, while others were harder to different degrees. Much like the taste of the tea, texture is a personal preference. Sabine enjoys a harder, chewier bubble, but I like the really soft and gummy ones.

Sweeting topped the menu comparison—no surprise given the immense variety of ways to customize your drink there. Bubble Island ranked lowest, with the fewest options and the least flexibility on customization. CoCo Fresh and Chatime fell in the middle. For many of the reviewers, that put them in the Goldilocks zone, as in "just right"—not so many choices that it was overwhelming but not so few that there was no flexibility.

	Tea	Bubbles	Menu	Overall Favorites	Total Score
Bubble Island	2	3	2	2.5	2.4
Chatime	4	5	3.4	4.3	4.2
CoCo Fresh	4	4	4.2	3.6	3.9
Sweeting	3	2	4.6	2.8	3.1

TABI WALTERS

Though they didn't figure into our calculations, the flavored drinks were rated positively at all locations. Views varied only in personal preference for the fruit flavors infused into them—peach, melon, strawberry, and a tropical mix. A few tasters did volunteer that if it were summer, they'd prefer one of the smoothies Sweeting and Bubble Island serve then.

I was sad that my own favorite, Sweeting, was brought down by bubble quality on the day we ordered. A number of tasters wrote in their favorite Sweeting orders on their ballots and explained why they still consider the café their favorite. For logistical reasons, we ordered only from the Sweeting on South University. Maggie, Sabine, and LR all commented that they prefer the Briarwood mall location, which uses a different menu.

This was an enlightening experiment, albeit not a very scientific one. As I type, I'm sipping my third bubble tea of the day and delighting in the thought of my next bubble tea adventure.

—Tabi Walters

Bubble Island, 1220 South University. (734) 222–9013. Mon.–Sat 11 a.m.–2 a.m., Sun. noon–1 a.m.

Chatime, 340 Maynard. (734) 531–6896. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. chatime.com

CoCo Fresh Tea & Juice, 1731 Plymouth Rd. Sun.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. en.coco-tea.com

Sweeting, 1213 South University. (734) 213–3300. Daily 11 a.m.–10:30 p.m. facebook.com/Sweeting2330

The Joy of Boba

"It's like eating eyeballs!" my boss once said about the tapioca marvels known as boba when she heard me gushing about them. While the texture isn't for everyone, boba—the tiny spheres of gooey treasure at the bottom of bubble tea—comfortingly remind me of coconut-milk desserts from my grandmother's native Philippines.

When Chow started offering bubble tea within walking distance from my home, I excitedly brought my son on the familiar quest of trying the newest bubble tea in Ann Arbor. That day, Chow's options were a premixed watermelon drink and premixed tea. Preferring a fresh brew, I asked if they would sell me just the bubbles, which they happily handed over in abundance.

Armed with a cup of boba and a plan, we marched around the corner to Sweetwaters café for their Iron Goddess and went to work. I halved the bubbles between us, pouring a dash of fresh milk and honey with the oolong in my concoction and straight-up milk in his. Like a bubble tea D&D alchemist, I transformed the ingredients into a boba-fied Elixir of the Gods.

The bubble tea closest to my heart, though, is the one we make at home, with extra love. The organic tapioca flour and coconut milk are bought from Arbor Farms around the corner from the Observer office. The teas are loose-leaf. The dough's only ingredients are the flour and hot water. My son and I roll and form it, laughing at the lopsided pearls that turn into small, perfect moons as we roll them in our hands.

If we have a straw saved from our bobadventures, we'll use it to slurp up our homemade boba, sweetened with pure maple syrup or smoky from dark brown sugar. But we are also deeply content eating the bubbles with a spoon out of a mason jar filled with rich coconut milk. It reminds me of *ginataang bilo-bilo*, the sweet coconut soup served at my mom's, a shared ritual of tapioca magic.

—LR Nuñez

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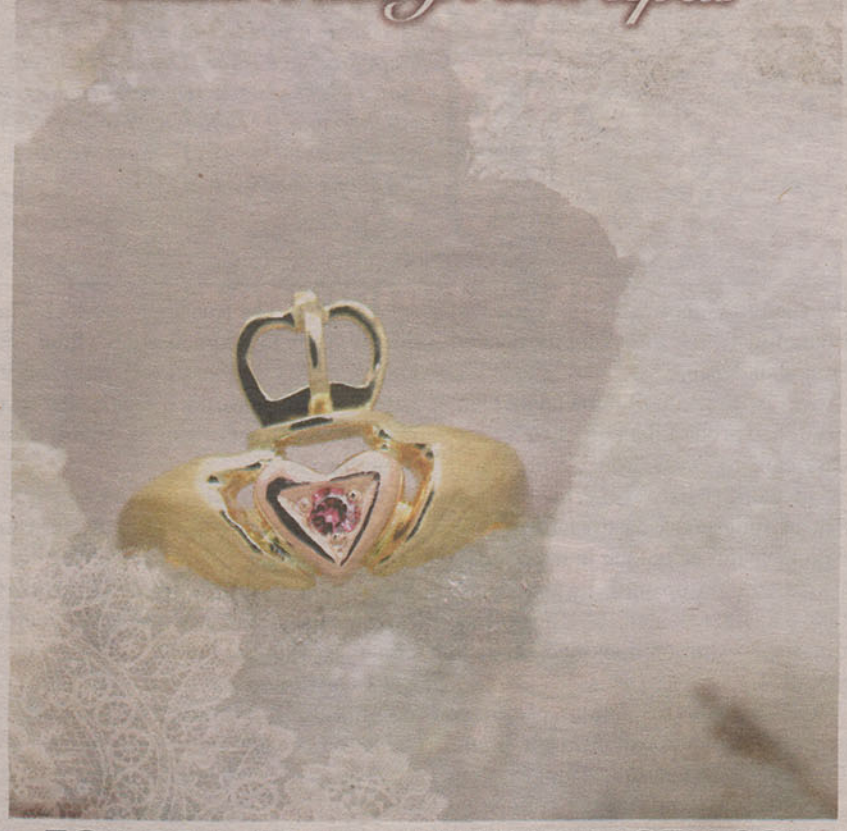

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Out: Dry Cleaning. In: Flying Axes

Axe Ventura arrives.

Anthony Taylor is amused by the local folks who have wandered into the ground-floor space at Tower Plaza on Maynard with arms full of dirty clothes. "They'll figure it out. We're here to stay," says Taylor, thirty-three, one of three partners in **Axe Ventura,** the new axe-wielding sports bar occupying the former home of Gold Bond Cleaners.

"We wanted to be in the downtown area, and we spent six months actively looking at properties," says Taylor. "This one was right because of the layout and the space."

Axe throwing has come a long way from Paul Bunyan mythology. The trend was started by a Toronto bar owner in 2011, but it dates back to competitions among lumberjacks in the 1800s. Televised "woodsmen" contests, both professional and collegiate, have elevated its profile in urban areas. Axe-throwing struck a chord with millennials seeking new competitive thrills and skills, camaraderie, and stress relief.

Participants at Axe Ventura play in stalls, two per stall, with twelve targets mounted on the walls. An axe-master monitors each pair of stalls, gives coaching on types of throws, and sets up tournaments. Participants throw at two targets at the same time when the axe-master calls.

Like Axe Ventura, these indoor axe ranges often feature clever names like Axes to Grind, Kick Axe, or Bury the Hatchet. They have been proliferating in downtowns and college towns, including in the Detroit area.

Taylor got hooked last January when he and his girlfriend, Shannon Kozyra, stopped at an axe-throwing bar in Louisville on a drive back from Florida. "We loved it and then realized that the closest one here was in Novi," he says.

Players must be eighteen or older and sign waivers to participate. The partners insist that the sport is carefully regulated, axe-masters are well trained, and accidents and injuries are rare.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Conor Duggan, Shannon Kozyra, and Anthony Taylor run a sports bar with an edge.

Betting on a long future for the sport, the partners signed a five-year lease with Gold Bond owner John Splitt.

Gold Bond had been on Maynard for sixty years and was much admired for its expertise. But Splitt says the business took three major hits in the last dozen years: the loss of executive clients when Pfizer left town; more casual dress codes at newer companies; and fewer people smoking, which made dry cleaning less necessary.

Splitt and his wife owned the space—they bought all three Tower Plaza storefronts when the building went condo—so they went looking for a tenant.

"I knew nothing about axe throwing, but it is a real business" says Splitt, a member of the Downtown Development Authority for twelve years.

"Downtowns in general are becoming entertainment centers," he adds.

A limited schedule, Thursdays through Sundays, enables each partner to pursue other interests. For now, Kozyra is a special education teacher in Grand Haven. Taylor, who spent nine years in the Coast Guard fighting terrorism and narcotics smuggling in Bahrain, Florida, and California, is a U-M junior majoring in kinesiology. Conor Duggan served in the Air Force for five years in technical support and is now studying economics. They are affiliated with the U-M chapter of Student Veterans of America and count a number of SVA members among their fifteen employees.

The partners are awaiting a liquor license but do not plan to serve food. They did extensive remodeling, using unfinished wood beams and exposed brick and concrete, to achieve the rough-hewn look associated with the sport. "Minimalism is part of its appeal," says Taylor.

Axe Ventura, 332 Maynard. (734) 780–7248. Thurs.–Fri. 4–11 p.m., Sat. noon–11 p.m., Sun. noon–8 p.m. Closed Mon.–Wed. axeventura.com.

Title Nine opens in Kerrytown

Clothes for sporty women

"We'd been looking at Ann Arbor for a very long time," says Michele Coddington—head of stores for **Title Nine,** the Berkeley, California–based women's athletic wear

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Title Nine consulted its top hundred catalog customers about Ann Arbor locations. Store manager Kelly Whittaker says news of the opening traveled fast on Facebook when the opening was announced last spring.

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Marketplace Changes

and clothing company—about its newest store, which opened at Kerrytown Market & Shops last April. Ann Arbor women are "adventurous, they travel, they're gals on the go …" she says, and Title Nine has a solid concentration of web and catalog customers here. But choosing a location wasn't easy.

"The only place we wanted to be was Main St.," Coddington says. Then she came for a visit: "Wow—it's all restaurants!" Coddington expanded her search and learned of a vacancy at Kerrytown. Still undecided, she emailed Title Nine's top hundred Ann Arbor customers for their opinions. "They were split down the middle" between Main and Kerrytown, Coddington says. Ultimately, she decided that Kerrytown offered "the right mix" for the company, which borrows its name from the landmark federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex and was founded in 1989 by athlete Missy Park, who started by selling sports bras out of her garage.

Right now it's the only nonlocal store at Kerrytown, but "we don't have a rule about this," says Kerrytown president Andrew O'Neal. He notes that the center has had national stores in the past, including Workbench furniture. "We want good, solid, unique tenants," and he thinks that Title Nine "expands the draw of Kerrytown."

This is the company's nineteenth and easternmost store. Store manager Kelly Whittaker says word traveled fast on Facebook when the opening was announced—"We have clientele that's been with us forever," she explains. She's seeing customers from metro Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Toledo—as well as mothers who are in town visiting their U-M students.

"I had a lot of moms who took a break on move-in day to come in … Big Ten [football] and graduation weekends are big for us too," Whittaker says. While the daughters of these moms still favor the ubiquitous Lululemon legging, Title Nine's niche is active women in their early thirties and up. Top-selling items include hiking pants that can go from "workout to dinner," reversible running tights, quarter-zip pullovers, and Nordic-looking sweater dresses and tunics designed to be worn over leggings or tights.

"Pockets are key," Whittaker says, and most of their dresses and skirts have them. Title Nine sells its own brand and also carries Patagonia, KÜHL, Brooks, Toad&Co, Krimson Klover, and others. But bras are "what we're really known for," Whittaker says. Dozens of options line the back wall, and staff "bravangelists" are trained to fit customers because, according to Coddington, "it's the single most important piece of equipment a woman can buy."

A mural of photos "In Praise of Difficult Women" highlights female leaders—from Joan of Arc to Beyoncé—and a quote from Abby Wambach about having to go through hard times to get to "the good stuff" is featured on another wall. All are designed to spark inspiration—and conversation.

"I disagree about retail being dead," Coddington says. "It has to be a meaningful experience. It has to be real and interactive. The store is the face of our brand and where women can converse with like-minded women."

An avid exerciser and mother of two daughters in their twenties, Whittaker says she loves to chat with customers, including members of running clubs and women who travel the world. "These women are an inspiration."

Title Nine, 415 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown Market & Shops, in the courtyard across from the Lunch Room), (734) 332–4955, Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m. titlenine.com

The Genie Is Out of the Bottle

More marijuana shops open.

In December, Main St. marijuana dispensary **Om of Medicine** celebrated its opening for recreational sales with a party attended by state rep Yousef Rabhi. The first customer was veteran local legalization advocate Chuck Ream.

A few days later, the place was jammin' with shoppers perusing varieties of *Cannabis sativa,* as well as concentrates, patches, and CBD products. (Om was still awaiting its edibles license.) Asked who's buying, marketing person Lisa Conine waved an arm, as if to say "look around" at adults of every age and ethnicity and gender.

In mid January, **Herbology,** on Jackson Rd. just west of the I-94 overpass, was still waiting for its recreational license. An inspector from Michigan's Marijuana Regulatory Agency had just been by to review its security system, product labels, and employee background checks.

Manager Dana Gengle explains that Herbology outlets are owned by Grassroots, a Chicago-based company that has 800 employees and locations as far east as Pennsylvania. This one's main room has three display cases for marijuana, paraphernalia, and edibles, including a $25 candy bar.

Though they're venturing into recreational sales, Gengle says, they like to be thought of as an apothecary. They have a list of recommended doctors who can write prescriptions. One, Pied Piper Compassionate Care, charges $99 for an initial visit, $75 for a follow-up, or $150 for a house call within a thirty-minute drive of its office on Packard.

A flyer advised that "Although Veterans Affairs doesn't prescribe medical marijuana as a form of treatment, veterans will not be denied VA benefits because of marijuana use. Veterans are actually encouraged to discuss marijuana use with their VA health providers." But medical sales weren't generating the buzz of recreational: during a reporter's forty-five-minute visit, they didn't have a single customer.

Inquiries at **Bloom City Club,** on Miller at the foot of Spring, were initially encouraging: a phone call was transferred to the general manager, who said, "I'll get back with you, it shouldn't be too long. We'll have to run it through legal." But no callback ever came. According to Bloom's ad in the January Observer, they offer "craft cannabis," edibles, concentrates, oils, patches, topicals, and tinctures. They also have a dispensary in Burton, near Flint.

Om of Medicine, 111 S. Main. (734) 369–8255. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. noon–4:19 p.m. omofmedicine.org

Herbology, 2730 Jackson Ave. (734) 219–4334. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. myherbology.com/ann-arbor

Bloom City Club, 423 Miller. (734) 585–0621. Daily 10 a.m.–9 p.m. bloomcityclub.com

Briefly noted

Opening a new restaurant and bar in a city that fancies itself a foodie town is a risky business. But **Regents Field** chose not to play that game. The successor to Cafe Felix is a straight-up sports bar, offering reasonably priced pub standards in a jo-

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Om of Medicine's Lisa Conine. Their first "adult use" customer was veteran local legalization advocate Chuck Ream.

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5th Annual Jelly Bean Jump Up Fundraiser for SafeHouse Center

Jelly Bean Jump Up has provided over $60,000 since its inception in 2016.

Word in the Ann Arbor community is that February marks the 5th Annual Jelly Bean Jump Up fundraiser for SafeHouse Center. The fundraiser started when Zingerman's co-founder, Ari Weinzweig, beloved Corgi pup Jelly Bean passed away in May of 2015 at the good old age of 17. Deb Kern from SafeHouse Center explains: " Jelly Bean's memory has lived on by helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community through the Jelly Bean Jump Up! This partnership with Zingerman's, Plum Market, Probility Physical Therapy, A Breed Above, Old National Bank and so many other community organizations has helped SafeHouse Center expand our free and confidential services at a time when our helpline calls have increased by 30%. Jelly Bean Jump Up has provided over $60,000 since its inception in 2016." Matt Jonna of Plum Market shared that, "Plum Market is thrilled to support the Jelly Bean Jump Up for the third year in a row. Being part of such an amazing cause continues to show our deep dedication to the communities we serve every day."

This year the Jelly Bean Jump will have coin cans at every Zingerman's, Old National Bank and Probility Physical Therapy location. Plum Market will be offering guests a chance to "Jump Up" for Jelly Bean and SafeHouse at all its Michigan stores February 10 through March 9. On Monday, February 3, Zingerman's Roadhouse will host professional pet photo sessions with all proceeds going to SafeHouse Center. All month long, Zingerman's Bakehouse will be baking Corgi-shaped cookies—$1 from every cookie goes to SafeHouse! And on Tuesday, March 10, Zingerman's Roadhouse will host a fundraising dinner featuring Alaskan seafood to close out this year's campaign! Those who want to support SafeHouse Center, honor the memory of Jelly Bean, or remember a much loved pet or person they've lost, can also donate directly to the Jelly Bean Jump Up at safehousecenter.org

the coolest little candy shop in the state!

Times sources are revealing that they've discovered one of the country's best little artisan candy shops in a completely unexpected location. Neither in a mall or on Main St., this shop is tucked in the back corner of an industrial park in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "It's a tiny little corner of confectionary heaven!," says an inside source. "I was shocked. 200 square feet stuffed with hand-crafted candy bars, old-fashioned peanut brittle made right on site, plus a whole world of artisan chocolate from Hungary, Dubai, France, and bean-to-bar makers in the U.S. There's Danish licorice, Swedish fish, hard candies, soft candies, marzipan and so much more." And, the source continues, "This is the place that those category-altering, mind-expanding Zingerman's candy bars are being crafted." "They should have a warning on them. I tried one and I've never been able to eat a commercial candy bar since," said one consumer.

Word is that the shop is located at Zingerman's Southside. "Don't blink or you'll miss it," said one online mapper. The nearly secret location is can be found on Plaza Drive between Zingerman's Coffee and Zingerman's Creamery, a few steps west of Zingerman's Bakehouse.

Valentines across the country await artisan food gifts from zingerman's mail order

Want to impress the one you love for Valentine's Day? Thousands of food lovers across the country have been turning to Zingerman's Mail Order. "While some very big name national brands get the headlines when it comes to ordering online, there are still a handful of craft-focused, artisan, mail order shippers with roots in their local communities," said one national expert. "These are folks who build personal relationships with their long distance customers in the same way the local specialty shop has been doing for centuries. Mail Order doesn't have to mean anonymity!"

Times sources have uncovered the ten sellers for Valentine's. zingermans.com is the best way to access this treasure trove of traditional full flavored foods and get them sent anywhere from Albion to Alaska!

***Zingerman's Times* Top Six Gifts to Send**

1. Seriously sensual: Spanish drinking chocolate
2. Great way to start any day: Breakfast in Bed gift box
3. Exotic and enticing: Purple Russian gift box
4. A Parisian classic: Angelina's drinking chocolate
5. Nouveau elegance from NYC: Chocolat Moderne gift box
6. Classic, nationally-renowned: Zingerman's Reuben kit

up south comes up north to the roadhouse

15th Annual African American Foodways-Dinner featuring author Nicole Taylor

Times food editor reports that writer, podcaster, and editor Nicole Taylor will be the guest speaker and chef for Zingerman's 15th Annual African American Foodways Dinner at Zingerman's Roadhouse on Wednesday, February 19!

When it comes to creative cooking in the African American community Nicole Taylor is one of the people clearly setting the pace! Her new book, *The Up South Cookbook*; *Chasing Dixie in a Brooklyn Kitchen* was released in 2019! As Jeff Gordinier wrote in the *New York Times*, "Across the country, a new generation of black chefs and cookbook authors has been reinventing, reinterpreting and reinvigorating what's thought of as African-American food."

Times sources have discovered that seats for the event are likely to fill up quickly. A secret source inside Zingerman's revealed that the evening will help raise funds for We the People Growers' Association who support restoring local agriculture in Ypsilanti!

attention food lovers!

Sign up to receive *Ari's Top 5* emails to learn what Ari is excited about throughout the land of Zing! zcob.me/at5

If you're looking for some long reads, check out our blog at: zingermanscommunity.com

For short reads, follow us on Twitter @zingermans and Instagram @zingermanscommunity

vial atmosphere where diners and drinkers can revel in their shared passion for sports.

Elegant details left behind by Cafe Felix add some allure to what co-owner and manager Matt Leach describes as a "sports bar for adults" with plentiful screens, free Skee-Ball, darts, and a generous daily happy hour.

For Leach, the bar is "a dream." A portrait of his grandfather Dick Leach, who "caught every pitch" for the Wolverines at the fabled 1953 baseball championship, shares space on the wall with a portrait of his father Rick Leach, the U-M sports hero who started at quarterback for four years and went on to play Major League Baseball. Matt Leach himself is the cohost of the sports talk show "The M Zone" with Jamie Morris on WTKA, which broadcasts weekly from Regents Field during basketball season. In football season, the bar hosted live podcasts by Wolverine legends Thomas Guynes and Che Foster, offering insiders' perspectives of the game peppered with glory stories from their years on the field.

Leach's father, Rick Leach, was Michigan's starting quarterback for four years and went on to play Major League Baseball.

It remains to be seen whether a sports bar will do better than a European-style bistro, but Regents Field seems to have hit the ground running.

Regents Field, 204 S. Main. (734) 800–4143. Daily 11 a.m.–2 a.m. regentsfield.com

❧❧❧

Aldi is spending more than $5 billion to remodel its more than 1,800 U.S. stores and add 700 more by 2023, including one on the crowded Carpenter Rd. corridor. At a compact 22,000 square feet, it doesn't look like much of a threat to the Kroger across the street or the Target and Meijer down the way. But the German-owned discounter is on track to become the country's third-largest grocer (after Kroger and Walmart) thanks to a low-price strategy based on small staffs, limited hours, and zero services—customers pack their own groceries, often in empty product delivery boxes. They also know not to expect familiar brand names—according to an April press release, "more than 90 percent of its range is ALDI-exclusive."

With the remodels and store openings comes a new focus on fresh produce and organic, vegetarian, and vegan items. The produce section is front and center, with dozens of organic produce options available alongside conventional produce, all wrapped in shiny plastic bags.

The plastic is pervasive, with many products wrapped in multiple layers of the stuff. It's a misstep in Aldi's campaign to court more green-minded customers, but the company is aware of the problem and has committed to converting all plastics to reusable, recyclable, or compostable varieties by 2025 and reducing plastic packaging by 15 percent in the same time frame.

Aldi, 3299 Carpenter. Daily 9 a.m.–8 p.m. aldi.us

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"When we opened the door at ten, the place just filled with people!" exclaims Jan Johnson, owner of the **Clothes Mentor** franchise in Maple Village. On a cold day in December, more than fifty people were waiting in line for her grand opening.

Clothes Mentor replaces a portion of the funky, much-missed Value World, where thrift shoppers foraged for bargain-priced merchandise and sometimes created impromptu changing rooms in the aisles. Its successor plays the used-clothing game at a much more selective level: it displays trendier, pricier, gently used designer and name-brand (think J. Crew, Michael Kors, Gucci, Chanel, and Coach) women's clothing (including maternity and sizes zero through twenty-six), shoes, handbags, and more, all neatly arranged by size and color, selling for up to 70 percent off retail prices. Four fitting rooms—one with wheelchair access—and a restroom are available.

Like Plato's Closet, Clothes Mentor buys and sells merchandise from customers. Johnson explains that Plato's is for teens and young adults, while Clothes Mentor caters to women twenty to fifty-five. Though they share historic links, each is a different corporate franchise operation.

Unlike consignment, where sellers wait until their merchandise sells to receive payment, Clothes Mentor pays cash on the spot at a third of what they hope to sell it for, or a bit more in store credit. Johnson accepts in-season garments from the store's opening to an hour before closing.

A self-professed shopping aficionado, Johnson chose accounting over fashion design as her college major because it promised "more money right away." She eventually earned her master's in finance, working in corporate America and retail.

As she neared retirement, she decided to indulge her fashion passion and love of people. "I'm all grown up, and I can do something for fun," she smiles.

Clothes Mentor, 339 N. Maple Rd. (Maple Village). (734) 263–2150. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. clothesmentor.com/ann-arbor-mi

Closings

In January, **Antelope Antiques** on E. Liberty was holding a final sale as it prepared to close on January 25. Amy Lagler made the difficult decision after her husband and business partner Karl Lagler's unexpected passing in October.

As Karl's sister, Mary Lou, organized and straightened antique clocks, books, figurines, and more in the underground shop, she recalled her brother's "pure knowledge—of not only coins, which were his specialty, stamps, jewelry—but his general knowledge of everything, his wonderful memory of history. He taught everyone he came in contact with.

"We're closing because we don't have that kind of knowledge," she added. "There's no way this store would be the same. And, Karl was such a big part of Ann Arbor, and he went out on top, and we want to leave it that way."

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Has someone placed a curse on 305 S. Main? Following in the footsteps of predecessor Oasis Café, trendy coffeeshop **BeanBerry Cafe** closed just two months after opening, and weeks after we wrote about it in our January issue.

A post on the café's Facebook page noted: "We are sad to announce that we've had to close our doors. Thank you to everyone who's shown us love and support since we opened. We'd also like to give a big thank you to our amazing staff for always going above and beyond for us as well as our customers." Owners Wes and Issa Baiz did not respond to a request for comment.

BeanBerry generated early buzz for its "bubble waffle cones" and "selfieccino" machine—the latter a timely tie-in to January's Fake Ad (see p. 75).

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Tuesday Morning, a Dallas-based discount retailer that offers home decor, closed its Carpenter Plaza location in December after five years. In previous decades it had made its home in Woodland Plaza and Glencoe Crossing.

Tuesday Morning founder Lloyd Ross got his start in 1974 selling manufacturers' leftovers on Tuesday mornings out of a rented warehouse. Once at 820 stores, the retailer now has about 700 nationwide. A corporate rep—who explains "there's never a reason for a closing given" —directed customers to its Canton location.

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The Big Salad, which opened in 2013 in Plymouth Road Plaza, closed in November. The company didn't respond to a request for more information, but according to its website, its U-M Hospital location is still open.

Apothecare Ann Arbor, a cannabis store that plans to sell products sourced from its 12,000-square-foot cultivation facility in Jackson, is set to open in that space this spring after renovations. Paul Hoskins, one of three business partners, says it will be "the only business that has organically grown cannabis in Ann Arbor." Meanwhile, he says, they plan to open a temporary location—in a second-floor suite of the same building—that will sell medical marijuana.

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Elixir Vitae, the homey, independently owned coffee, tea, and snack shop on Maynard across from Nickels Arcade, has closed its doors. With its dim lighting, well-worn couches, and reasonable prices, the laid-back shop evoked Ann Arbor's hippie era. That may no longer be a viable niche, as competition for the upscale university and tech markets has driven other coffee shops to offer a more high-end experience. ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com or leave voicemail at (734) 769–3175 x 309.

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28190 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, MI
(734)984-6985
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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey & James M. Manheim

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

Ann Arbor Distilling Co.

220 Felch 882–2169

This boutique distillery features live music in its Tiny Corner stage in the tasting room (or on the patio in summer if the weather is nice), Fri. & Sat. 7–9 p.m. and Sun. 5:30–7:30 p.m. **Every Sun.: Brennan Andes & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by Macpodz bassist Andes. **Feb. 7: Acoustic Ash.** Stage name of Utica (MI) folk singer-songwriter Ash Harris, who cites Tracy Chapman, k.d. lang, and Sarah McLachlan as influences. **Feb. 8: Jake Maltby.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Feb. 15: Jonathon Taylor Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by local drummer Taylor. **Feb. 21: Dr. Pete Larson & His Cytotoxic Nyatiti Band.** Self-styled "East Africanesque futurist lyre jams" by this trio led by local singer–string musician Larson who plays the *nyatiti,* an 8-stringed lyre native to the Siaya region of western Kenya, where he studied under one of the last masters of the instrument, Mzee Oduor Nyagweno. With guitarist Fred Thomas and drummer Tom Hohmann. **Feb. 22: Brett Mitchell.** Midland alt-pop-rock singer-songwriter whom *Grand Rapids Press* music critic John Sinkevics calls "the new millennium's version of Marshall Crenshaw." **Feb. 28: Kameryn Galen Duo.** Jazz by the Detroit duo of vocalist Kameryn Ogden Mathewson and keyboardist Galen Bundy. **Feb. 29: Andrew Brown's Djangophonique.** See Detroit Street Filling Station.

Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti Eagle Crest

1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti 487–2000

The Elizabeth Ann room adjacent to the bar in this Ypsilanti hotel hosts a monthly Blues & Brews show, Sat. 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 15: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee.*

The Ark

316 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and theark.org, and at the door. **Feb. 4: "Music Matters Presents: SpringFest Showdown."** Local artists battle for a chance to perform at SpringFest, the annual lifestyle & music festival of the U-M student-run nonprofit Music Matters. Proceeds from tonight's show go to student scholarships. $15 (students, $12). **Feb. 5: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up (doors open 7:30) to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3. **Feb. 6: Alvin Youngblood Hart.** First local show in many years by this blues veteran, a follower of Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown who extended that master's eclectic approach with country and ska elements, and more. $25. **Feb. 7: Carrie Newcomer.** Acclaimed singer-songwriter and dynamic performer from northern Indiana whose songs explore the nourishments of the spirit in everyday life with a gritty realism and soft-spoken charm. A stylish singer with a dark, smoky alto, she uses a honky-tonk drawl and a bluesy purr to give her songs a seasoned toughness and a seductive sensuality that's tempered by her Quaker roots. *No Depression* calls the music on her 2013 CD *Before & After* "delicate yet strong, with a voice rich with warmth and deep with soul." She has a new album, *The Point of Arrival.* $25. **Feb. 8: Mustard's Retreat.** *See review, p. 58.* According to songwriter Garnet Rogers, Ann Arbor duo Mustard's Retreat "represents everything that is best about folk music. Their songs have entered the lexicon of anonymous folk songs." With the relocation of Michael Hough to Arizona, cofounder David Tamulevich is rejoined by Libby Glover, an original member of Mustard's Retreat when it started out as a trio in the 1970s. Songwriter and Minnesota concert promoter **Glen Elvig** opens. $20. **Feb. 9: Kitty Donohoe.** This Irish-American singer-songwriter based in Ann Arbor, who tonight celebrates her 70th birthday, is known for her bell-like soprano—and her grittily realistic, bluesy original songs. In its review of her CD *Northern Border, Sing Out!* calls her "one of the rare singer-songwriters to sensuously weave words and melody into a strong and mesmerizing fabric." Her music is stylistically diverse, but her latest album, *The Irishman's Daughter,* explores her heritage. $20. **Feb. 11: "The Exile Follies."** In-the-round show with **John Doe** (X), **Kristin Hersh** (Throwing Muses), and **Grant-Lee Phillips** (Grant Lee Buffalo), all songwriters with their respective alternative bands who've come together for songwriter shows periodically since 2002. John Doe sums it up this way: "You get a solid solo set from each of us, some one-of-a-kind collaborations, plus lots of jokes and fooling around in between. Until we did this we didn't know how funny we could be, especially together. I can't wait." $25. **Feb. 12: The SteelDrivers.** A highly regarded quintet of veteran Nashville musicians whose fans include Vince Gill and former member Chris Stapleton, the SteelDrivers draw on country, soul, and various contemporary influences to create an intense, darkly poetic brand of traditional bluegrass. The band has a new album, *The Muscle Shoals Sessions.* $35–$45. **Feb. 13: Brad Phillips & the Roots Music Strings.** Nationally renowned Saline-bred multi-instrumental string virtuoso whose music embraces a range of genres from old-time, bluegrass, and Celtic to jazz and pop. Phillips and his Roots Music Strings bring a new album, *Breaking Free.* $20. **Feb. 14: My Folky Valentine.** In celebration of romance, **Annie & Rod Capps** host other Michigan musical couples. This year's guests: **Jen Cass & Eric Janetsky** (of The Lucky Nows) and The Springtails (**Julianna & Andy Wilson**). $20. **Feb. 15: Joshua Davis.** Americana folk-rock originals by former Steppin' in It frontman Davis, a finalist in the 2014–2015 season of *The Voice.* He brings a new album, *Live at the Robin.* $30. **Feb. 16: Brother Elsey.** Americana-tinged band of brothers from the Detroit area, via Grand Rapids. Their music ranges from delicately haunting to anthemic and inspired. Their song "Wildfire" was featured on MTV's *Teen Mom OG,* and they have an as-yet-untitled debut full-length album ready for release. $15. **Feb. 18: HighTime.** This new trio from Ireland's west coast features, between the three of them, Celtic harp, flute, guitar, bodhrán, whistles, and vocals, in a high-energy show that includes step dancing and three-part vocal harmonies. $20. **Feb. 19: Joe Pug.** Highly regarded Chicago-based folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music draws on a variety of influences from John Prine to the late alt-country songwriter Walter Hyatt, and whose best songs manage to blend Springsteen's conversational, musing Everyman with Dylan's gnomic parables. He has a new album, *The Flood in Color.* Opener: **Matthew Wright,** a pop-folk singer-songwriter who calls himself "a male Sara Bareilles." $20. **Feb. 20. Cheryl Wheeler.** This versatile veteran singer-songwriter is known for her hauntingly pure voice, biting sense of humor, and alternately poignant and whimsical songs about human relationships and everyday life. Her songs have been recorded by the likes of Suzy Bogguss, Nanci Griffith, Maura O'Connell, and Bette Midler. Opening act is **Kenny White,** a New York City singer-songwriter and pianist who writes frank, funny, sophisticated songs in various genres, including classical, jazz, 60s rock, and country, and who often joins Wheeler on stage. $25. **Feb. 21: Martin Sexton.** Sexton is a widely acclaimed singer-songwriter from Boston known for bold, thoughtful original songs that blend elements of rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk balladry with the mannerisms of R&B and soul, and for dynamic vocals that range from falsetto crooning to muted trumpet sounds. "Martin Sexton is ripe with raw, expansive talent. His voice comes in a hundred impossible shades. His songs are sweet and spirited and soulful. His repertoire is like a cross-country tour of the American musical vernacular," says the *Boston Globe.* $35. **Feb. 23: Joe Henry.** Country-rooted folk-rock by this critically acclaimed singer-songwriter. Henry, who grew up in Michigan, is often compared to Van Morrison for his passionate emotional directness and to Dylan for his restless musical inventiveness and poetic lyrical touch, and even more than 3 decades into his career, his music continues to evolve in unexpected and revelatory ways. He brings a new album, *The Gospel According to Water,* shaped by his recovery from a life-threatening cancer diagnosis. $25. **Feb. 24: Lúnasa.** Critically acclaimed all-star acoustic instrumental ensemble whose renditions of traditional Irish music are known for their rare blend of exploratory musical intelligence and fiery passion. Members are Flook guitarist Ed Boyd, Coolfin fiddler Seán Smyth, Moving Cloud flutist Kevin Crawford, Nomos piper Ciloian Vallely, and bassist Trevor Hutchinson. $25. **Feb. 25: Jim & Sam.** Husband-and-wife Los Angeles duo of Jim Hanft and Samantha Yonack, who are filmmakers as well as songwriters, and whose documentary film *After So Many Days* chronicles a year of the duo's touring. Free; nonperishables for Food Gatherers accepted. **Feb. 26: Open Stage.** See above. $3. **Feb. 27: Mike Marshall & Darol Anger.** Since the 1980s, fiddler Anger, a former member of the David Grisman Quintet, and multi-instrumentalist Marshall have crossed boundaries between bluegrass, jazz, world music, and the avant-garde. Their duo shows are explosively experimental. With new acoustic music commonplace these days thanks to the work of Chris Thile and others, it's easy to forget that this pair did much to create the genre. $30. **Feb. 28: Raul Midón.** New Mexico–born, NYC-based veteran blind jazz-soul singer-songwriter known for his passionate singing and his distinctive, heavily percussive guitar stylings that draw on flamenco music. $20. **Feb. 29: Mountain Heart.** Winner of the 1999 International Bluegrass Association Emerging Artist of the Year Award, this bluegrass-based Americana ensemble blends traditional and progressive styles with the energy of Southern rock. The band's 2010 CD, *Road That Never Ends,* was recorded live at the Ark. They're big local favorites. $30.

Babs' Underground

213 S. Ashley 997–0800

This downtown lounge features occasional live music. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 7: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With **Detroit Office of Civil Defense,** a jazz ensemble led by local composer-bassist Pat Prouty.

Bel-Mark Lanes

3530 Jackson 864–6095.

The café inside this westside bowling alley features occasional live music. Karaoke, Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Feb. 23: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6–8 p.m.

jazz

PD9 Sun Ra Band

Celebrating the Cosmic Jazz of Sun Ra

CHUCK ANDERSEN

Sun Ra, who appeared on this planet as Herman Poole Blount in Birmingham, Alabama, 105 years ago, led a life that encompassed the whole history of jazz before he decamped for the planet Saturn, where he claimed to have been transported and experienced a spiritual transformation.

In the 1940s he moved to Chicago, where he played piano and wrote arrangements for a broad array of settings, from blues singers to society bands. He eventually began to lead his own groups in local clubs, leading up to the formation of his Arkestra, which featured his own compositions as well as standards. He led the band for decades, moving to New York and finally to Philadelphia and touring Europe and the Middle East. As was the case with Duke Ellington, whom he admired immensely, several musicians, such as saxophonists John Gilmore and Marshall Allen, stayed with him for most of the journey.

The music he created over the years is difficult to define, ranging from the big band era (Ra actually played in a later version of the Fletcher Henderson orchestra) through modal and polytonal versions of hard bop to highly abstract avant-garde outings. Jazz critic Robert Campbell described his range as "everything from 1930s hotel-band schmaltz to synthesizer pieces that twittered and clunked like a demented Pac-Man machine." He created a complex idiosyncratic intellectual Black Myth, which asserted alienation from the dominant white culture, associated his people's blackness with the blackness and infinite dimensions of space, and pointed to a better future.

The master may have moved on to outer space, but the Arkestra lives on, led by ninety-five-year-old Marshall Allen. Others remain dedicated to Sun Ra's music as well. Chief among them is Detroit's own PD9 Sun Ra Band, led by drummer RJ Spangler. This group, not unlike Ra, surveys decades of jazz history: the blues, the roots of the swing bands in the works of Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and Bennie Moten, and Ra's own cosmic excursions. They are particularly fond of compositions from his early Chicago days, such as the fast-paced boppy "Saturn," which became the Arkestra's theme song, or the much more complex mysterious processional "Ancient Aiethiopia," a harbinger of more avant jazz to come.

During his last decade or so, Ra often looked back to his early days by featuring tunes by Fletcher and Horace Henderson and their contemporaries. including "King Porter Stomp," and "Big John Special" made famous by Benny Goodman as showcases for trumpeters Bunny Berigan and Harry James. PD9 takes particular delight when delving into such tunes, tipping a hat to their own swing era repertoire concerts. Most important, however, is their invocation of the very spirit of Sun Ra in their vibrant and sometimes irreverent celebration of the theatrical and spiritual nature of musical enactment. Their public performances are pure joy.

The PD9 Sun Ra Band plays the Blue LLama jazz club at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on February 22.

—Piotr Michalowski

The Blind Pig
208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local club features live music most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets sold at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at blindpigmusic.com/calendar. **Feb. 1: "Purple Rain."** An all-star band led by veteran local bassist Jamie Register performs the entirety of Prince's landmark 1984 album. $10. **Feb. 4: Illiterate Light.** Propulsive, atmospheric indie rock with a psychedelic tinge by this duo from rural Virginia. Opener: **Camp Howard,** a Richmond (VA) indie rock quartet that performs its songs in both English and Spanish. $12. **Feb. 6: Iann Dior.** *All ages admitted.* Popular hip-hop/emo rapper from Corpus Christi. Openers: **Landon Cube,** a rural Maryland hip-hop rapper, and **Poorstacy,** a hip-hop rapper from south Florida. $18–$22. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 7: YBN Cordae.** *All ages admitted.* Young D.C.–area hip-hop rapper & singer-songwriter whose 2019 debut CD *The Lost Boy* earned a Grammy nomination. Opener: **24KGoldn,** a charismatic, sharp-witted 18-year-old hip-hop rapper from San Francisco $20–$25. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 8: Ma Baker.** Local funk-rock quartet. Openers: **Sleezy Hamilton,** an Ypsilanti electronic dance musician, and **Scüter,** a local electronic downtempo dance musician. **Feb. 9: Mickey Avalon & Dirt Nasty.** Avalon is a veteran L.A. noir hip-hop rapper whose music draws its themes from the underworld of drug addiction and prostitution. He performs with rapper Dirt Nasty, a stage name of actor-comic Simon Rex. Openers: Detroit hip-hop MCs **Hatch** and **Dooley Ridah.** $20–$25. **Feb. 14: Zion I.** Socially conscious hip-hop by this veteran Oakland (CA) rapper. $15 ($20 at the door). **Feb. 23: MC Lars.** *All ages admitted.* Oakland (CA) punk hip-hop MC. Openers: **The Doubleclicks,** a nerd-folk comedy duo of sisters from Portland (OR), and **Schaffer the Darklord,** a rapping NYC comic who cites influences from the Beastie Boys and Snoop Dogg to Bill Hicks and George Carlin. $15 ($17 at the door). 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 27: Cam'ron.** Renowned veteran hip-hop rapper from Harlem. $25. **Feb. 28: Flor.** *All ages admitted.* L.A.–based quartet whose music blends indie rock and synth pop. Opener: **Winnetka Bowling League,** an L.A. pop-rock band fronted by singer-songwriter Matthew Koma. $15–$20. 8 p.m.–midnight.

The Blue LLama
314 S. Main 531–6188

This new jazz club/restaurant features live music or occasional jazz films Wed.–Sat., 7–10/11 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. (early show) & 9 p.m. (late show) for ticketed shows. No cover except for ticketed shows, no dancing. Advance tickets available at bluellamaclub.com. **Feb. 1: Ramona Collins Quartet.** Soulful jazz & blues by an ensemble led by veteran Toledo vocalist Collins. **Feb. 5:** TBA. **Feb. 6: Tumbao Bravo.** Veteran local Afro-Cuban jazz quartet led by multi-instrumental reeds player Paul VornHagen. Followed at 8:45 p.m.by a screening of ***Bride + 1,*** Ann Arbor native Christina Morales Hemenway's 2019 rom-com in which she stars as a 39-year-old never-married Latina who sends out "save the date" wedding invites in a magical thinking scheme to conjure a groom. **Feb. 7: Sean Dobbins & the Modern Jazz Messengers.** Hard-swinging local ensemble led by drummer Dobbins that's devoted to continuing the spirit of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. 7 p.m. **Feb. 7: Talking Ear.** Originals and improvisations by this local progressive jazz quintet. 11 p.m. **Feb. 8: Joan Belgrave Quartet.** Jazz standards and love songs by renowned Detroit jazz vocalist Belgrave, an Ann Arbor native who has performed everything from soul and R&B to rock and blues. "Belgrave's voice is so soothing and sexy, she could give a pit bull goose bumps," says *Metro Times* critic Charles Latimer. $15–$35. 7 & 9 p.m. **Feb. 12: Los Gatos.** Popular local Latin jazz quintet led by drummer Pete Siers that specializes in the old-school music of Cal Tjader, Mongo Santamaría, Tito Puente, and Joe Cuba. **Feb. 13: Dean Solden & the Jazz Explorers.** A mix of blues, bebop, and modal jazz standards & originals by a quartet led by local composer-pianist Solden. **Feb. 14: Nicole New.** An eclectic mix of jazz with pop and R&B flavors by an ensemble fronted by this Detroit vocalist known for her rich tone, sensitive soulfulness, and rhythmic phrasing. $125–$200 includes a 4-course dinner. 7 & 9 p.m. **Feb. 15: Shahida Nurullah & Good Company.** Quartet led by Nurullah, a big-voiced Detroit jazz singer who specializes in blues, ballads, and pop standards. **Feb. 15: DThree Plus Two.** Detroit jazz trio led by drummer David Alvarez III. 11 p.m. **Feb. 19: Aguanko.** Local Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble led by composer-percussionist Alberto Nacif. **Feb. 20:** TBA. **Feb. 21: Dave McMurray & D3.** Groove-oriented Detroit jazz-funk trio led by Was (not Was) saxophonist McMurray. 8 p.m. **Feb. 21: Aris Chalin Trio.** Jazz trio led by this young local pianist. 11 p.m. **Feb. 22: PD9 Sun Ra Band.** *See review, p. 48.* A tribute to Sun Ra by this side project of the Detroit Music Award-winning Planet D Nonet, a a self-styled "space-age swing band" led by veteran drummer RJ Spangler and trumpeter James O'Donnell. $10–$30. 7 & 9 p.m. **Feb. 22: Allie Taylor & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by violinist Taylor, a U-M music grad student who is a 3-time winner of *Downbeat* Student Music Awards in the jazz vocal and pop/rock/blues categories. 11 p.m. **Feb. 26: Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet.** World music–based jazz by this ensemble led by local bassist Sharp. **Feb. 27: Great Lakes Performing Artists Benefit.** 2 shows. The early show features boogie-woogie & blues pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun,** the chambergrass quartet **Westbound Situation,** and the **Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet** world-music-based jazz ensemble. The late show features classical vocalist **Alice McAllister Tillman,** the U-M music faculty trio **Vox3Machina,** and singer-songwriter **Abigail Stauffer** with **Dave the Cellist.** $125 includes 3-course tasting menu & 2 house beers or wines. 5 & 8 p.m. **Feb. 28: David L. Harris.** Quartet led by Harris, a fast-rising young New Orleans composer-trombonist and vocalist whose music blends the grit and swing of traditional jazz with the edge of modern jazz. 8 p.m. **Feb. 28: Triangle Quartet.** An array of standards by everyone from Monk, Mingus, and Wayne Shorter to Jimi Hendrix, Bowie, and Joni Mitchell, along with many originals, by this local quartet. With guitarist Charlie Sutherland, trumpeter Ingrid Racine, bassist Josef Deas, and drummer Nick Collins. 11 p.m. **Feb. 29: Gerard Gibbs & Organized Crime.** Funk-inflected jazz by this Detroit trio led by veteran Hammond B-3 organist Gibbs. With guitarist Perry Hughes and drummer Jabari Kersey. 8 p.m. **Feb. 29: Alexis Lombre Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by the soulful young Chicago-bred pianist Lombre. 11 p.m.

The B-Side
310 E. Washington 214–9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat. 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 8: "Bold Connections."** Showcase of local teen women musicians in various genres, including hip-hop, avant-garde, pop, rock, and singer-songwriter. 8–10 p.m. **Feb. 29: "Get LOWkey: Leap Year Edition."** Acoustic music by local teens. Proceeds benefit LIVE on Washington, the Neutral Zone's annual outdoor teen music & arts festival, which returns in June. 8–10 p.m.

The Club Above
215 N. Main 686–4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music most Fri. & Sat., and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. or later (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted. February schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Feb. 1: Pajamas.** Local pop-rock jam trio. **Feb. 6: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Feb. 7: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues band. **Feb. 13: Adam Labeaux.** An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, soul, funk, and rock originals by this local singer-songwriter. **Feb. 14: Isaac Ryder Band.** Neo-soul & funk band from Flint, led by Ryder, the stage name of South Haven singer-songwriter Joel Rydecki. **Feb. 15: Paul's Big Radio.** Rootsy country-pop band led by local singer-songwriter Paul Lippens. **Feb. 20: Jay Frydenlund.** Chirp singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. **Feb. 21: Brett Mitchell.** See Ann Arbor Distilling. **Feb. 22: Shaun Garth Walker.** See above. **Feb. 27: Dave Menzo.** See Habitat. **Feb. 28: Anna Lee's Company.** Local bluegrass- and funk-inflected folk-rock septet whose influences range from the Band and Little Feat to Martin Medeski & Wood and Old Crow Medicine Show. **Feb. 29: Spark.** Local quartet fronted by vocalist Robin Grant that plays mostly uptempo, danceable covers. With guitarists John Rasmussen & Joshua Killom, bassist Cy Klone, and drummer Jim Weyman.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main 665–9468

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 1: Mike Ward.** Veteran Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose influences range from the Clancy Brothers to Dylan, Prine, and Springsteen. Opener: dobro player **Dave Falk. Feb. 7: The Potter's Field.** Americana roots duo of singer-songwriters Rochelle Clark of Chelsea and John Natiw of Canton. **Feb. 8: Bob Skon Trio.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this trio led by Skon, a local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Feb. 14:** No music. **Feb. 15: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Feb. 21: Amy Grace.** Young acoustic pop-folk singer-songwriter from East Tawas. **Feb. 22: Eric Moore.** Local singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist whose music draws on blues, folk balladry, and folk-rock. **Feb. 28: Open Mic.** All musicians invited. Hosted by singer-songwriter Phil McMillion. Signup begins at 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 29: Rochelle Clark.** Talented, golden-voiced Chelsea singer-songwriter who's half of the popular Americana duo The Potter's Field.

Detroit Street Filling Station
300 Detroit 224–2161

Vegan restaurant near Kerrytown with live music Wed., Thurs, & Sat., 6–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Andrew Brown's Djangophonique.** Vintage jazz in the style of gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt's 1930s Parisian swing by a local quartet led by guitarist Andrew Brown. With guitarist Erik McIntyre, clarinetist Tyler Rondo, and bassist Jorian Olk-Szost. **Every Thurs.: Mr. B.** Traditional boogie-woogie and blues, along with some originals, by this internationally renowned veteran local pianist. **Feb. 1: Flea Circus.** Duo of 2 veteran stars of the local music scene, boogie woogie & blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun and drummer Pete Siers. **Feb. 8: Andy Adamson.** Jazz originals by keyboardist Adamson in styles ranging from traditional to modern electric jazz, along with some free improvisation. **Feb. 15: Ki5.** Local electronic musician whose songs blend dynamic vocals with beatboxing. **Feb. 22: Doug Brown.** Americana covers & originals in an array of genres by this veteran local singer-keyboardist who has played with everyone from Chuck Berry & Koko Taylor to the Four Tops. **Feb. 29: Jay Frydenlund.** See Conor O'Neill's.

The Earle
121 W. Washington 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.–Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. Solo jazz pianists TBA occasionally substitute. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring drummer Robert Warren and a rotating roster of bassists and pianists.

The Elks Lodge
220 Sunset 761–7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Fri. & Sat. 6–10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Feb. 20: Hip-Hop Open Mic.** All hip-hop artists invited.

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs. 9 p.m.–12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:15 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, a DJ Mon. 9 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun. 8:30–10 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: Rob Crozier Trio.** Jazz originals and standards by this local ensemble led by bassist Rob Crozier. **Every Thurs. Cetan Clawson.** Monroe psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Feb. 1: 50 Amp Fuse.** Popular Detroit 70s and 80s classic rock band. **Feb. 3: Omar Aragones.** Detroit electronic R&B and soul singer-songwriter. **Feb. 4: Yellowhammer.** Area quartet led by trumpeter Ross Huff that plays jazz standards and funk. **Feb. 7 & 8: Dan Rafferty Band.** Popular 8-piece Detroit pop dance band. **Feb. 11: Dave Menzo.** This local pop-rock singer-songwriter uses guitar, bass, synths, and other electronics to improvise instrumental tracks on the spot to sing with. **Feb. 14: FreeLance.** Local dance rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder to AC/DC and Guns & Roses to Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. **Feb. 15: Atomic Radio.** Detroit quartet that plays 70s–90s rock and pop favorites. **Feb. 17: Omar Aragones.** See above. **Feb. 18: Yellowhammer.** See above. **Feb. 21 & 22: Persuasion.** Versatile Detroit R&B dance band. **Feb. 25: Dave Menzo.** See above. **Feb. 28: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. **Feb. 29: Jedi Mind Trip.** Mid-Michigan quartet that plays 70s & 80s dance rock covers.

The Last Word
301 W. Huron 585–5691

This downtown cocktail bar features live music, Thurs. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: The Pherotones.** A wide range of jazz and jazzed-up popular music, from the 1920s to the present, by this all-star local quartet. With trumpeter Ross Huff, pianist Giancarlo Aversa, bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer Wes Fritzemeier.

LIVE
102 S. First St. 623–1443

This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.–early June), 6:30–9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Feb. 7: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Its rep-

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ertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Yardbirds, the Byrds, and Dylan to Barbara Lewis's "Hello Stranger," the Foundations' 1968 hit "Build Me Up Buttercup," The Kinks' "Dead End Street," and priceless obscurities like Love's "Alone Again Or." **Feb. 14: Tall Cool One.** Local Kinks tribute band. **Feb. 21: Al Jacquez.** All-star local ensemble led by veteran local blues and blues-rock singer-guitarist. With guitarist Brian Delaney, bassist Randy Tessier, drummer Rich Dishman, and a keyboardist TBA. **Feb. 28: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** An intense fusion of funk, soul, and blues by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Rain.

Lo-Fi
220 S. Main (lower level) 369–6070
Casual bar beneath the Nightcap cocktail lounge features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. February schedule TBA.

Mash
211 E. Washington 222–4095
This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.–midnight and Thurs.–Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Feb. 1: Matt Boylan.** Covers and originals by this local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 1: Broken Fuzz.** Detroit-area rock quartet. **Feb. 5: Reeds 'n' Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and a guitarist TBA. **Feb. 6: Twenty TwentyFour.** Toledo ensemble whose music is an eclectic, danceable mix of jazz, funk, R&B, soul, and rock. **Feb. 7: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 7: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Feb. 8: Dave Menzo.** See Habitat. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 8: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Feb. 12: Sugartips Acoustic.** Acoustic postpunk rock cover duo from suburban Detroit. **Feb. 13: The Urban Legend Trio.** Soul-based music by this Toledo ensemble whose music also draws on elements of blues, funk, R&B, and jazz. **Feb. 14: Twenty TwentyFour Duo.** Duo from this Toledo band (see above). 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 14: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Feb. 15: Jason Dean.** Local postmodern pop singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 15: The Invasion.** British Invasion cover quartet from Redford led by singer-guitarist David Roof. **Feb. 19: Robert Johnson.** See above. **Feb. 20: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See above. **Feb. 21: Mia Green.** Young Detroit-area pop-folk singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 21: Pajamas.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Feb. 22: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 22: The Scott Martin Band.** Canton alt-country-rock quartet led by singer-songwriter Martin. **Feb. 26: David Roof.** Local blues-rock singer-guitarist. **Feb. 27: Fangs & Twang.** Ypsilanti trio of Black Jake & the Carnies members that plays twangy, high-energy country rock, with songs about vampires, mummies, and other fantastical creatures. **Feb. 28: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 28: The Bluescasters.** High energy blues-infused rock 'n' roll by this local quartet. **Feb. 29: Mike Vial.** See above. 6–9 p.m. **Feb. 29: JD & the Salingers.** Postmodern pop with strains of country, soul, and punk by this local band fronted by singer-songwriter Jason Dean.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty 662–9291
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Wed., & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Feb. 2:** No music. **Feb. 5: Meg Brennan Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by saxophonist & flutist Brennan. With keyboardist Joshua Catania, bassist Aiden Cafferty, and drummer Eliza Salem. **Feb. 9: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences include Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. **Feb. 12: Dr. Pete Larson & His Cytotoxic Nyatiti Band.** See Ann Arbor Distilling. **Feb. 16: Chris Buhalis.** Popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals, often with an acerbic topical edge, in a rich, warm voice. His latest CD, *Big Car Town,* is a collection of songs exploring and celebrating his working-class heritage. **Deb. 19: Will Wood Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Wood. **Feb. 23: Judy Banker.** Veteran local singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her songs exploring love, heartbreak, and renewal. Tonight she celebrates the release of her 3rd CD, *Buffalo Motel.* **Feb. 26: Nick Collins Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Collins.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard 662–8283
This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music 1st & 4th Tues. and every Thurs. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30–9 p.m. **Feb. 4: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Feb. 11: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Feb. 18: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited. Hosted by the Tree Town Uke ensemble; chords provided.

The Ravens Club
207 S. Main 214–0400
This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8–11 p.m., Mon. 8–10:30 p.m., & Tues. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.** (except Feb. 2)**: "Sol Jazz Sundays."** A house band—trumpeter Ingrid Racine, keyboardist Michael Malis, bassist Josef Deas, & drummer Jesse Kramer—is joined by different guests each week, including saxophonist **Tim Haldeman** (Feb. 9), trombonist **Vincent Chandler** (Feb. 16), and vocalist **Ramona Collins** (Feb. 23). **Every Mon.: Justin Walter's Poe Boys.** Traditional jazz stomps, shuffles, and 1920s–1930s show tunes by this local ensemble led by trumpeter & cornetist Justin Walter. With saxophonist-clarinetist Chris Tabaczynski, guitarist-banjoist Erik McIntyre, and sousaphonist Chris Smith. **Every Tues.: Chris Buhalis.** Popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals, often with an acerbic topical edge, in a rich, warm voice. His latest CD, *Big Car Town,* is a collection of songs exploring and celebrating his working-class heritage.

Rumpus Room
510 N. Main, Chelsea
therumpusroomchelsea.com
Music room inside Jet's Pizza features film screenings Tues. 8 p.m., trivia Wed. 7 p.m., and occasional live music, 8–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 1: Funkwagon.** Gospel-infused funk-rock by this Burlington (VT) band now based in Detroit. **Feb. 7: Distant Stars.** Grand Rapids quartet that plays a brand of experimental glam-rock quartet it bills as "funky/sexy/strange." **Feb. 8: Stormy Chromer.** Popular local progressive jam-rock quartet. Opener: **TJ Zindle & the Powerlines,** a dynamic local rock 'n' roll band led by Ragbirds guitarist Zindle. **Feb. 14: "Singer-Songwriter Spotlight."** With performers TBA. **Feb. 15: Deadicated.** Detroit psychedelic jam band that specializes in the music of the Grateful Dead and its circle. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 21: Open Mic.** All musicians invited. Hosted by Erin Zindle. Sign-up begins at 6 p.m. 7–10 p.m. **Feb. 22: Mo' Easy.** Local band whose music is rooted in the blues, jazz, pop, rock, and funk of postwar New Orleans, especially Professor Longhair.

Silvio's Organic Pizza
715 North University 214–6666
This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6–8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 7–9 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, dancing. **Feb. 1: Sterling G Project.** Local jazz-funk ensemble led by keyboardist Sterling G. **Feb. 7: Bob Skon.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Feb. 8: Mixed Nuts.** Acoustic covers and originals by this Chelsea trio. **Feb. 14: Elizabeth Royce.** Rock, folk, blues, and country classics by this local torch singer and pianist, the lead singer of the local neo-girl group She-Bop. **Feb. 15: Rebetiko Detroit.** Detroit ensemble that plays *rebetiko,* a blues-like type of urban folk song born in the underworld cafés of Asia Minor that eventually achieved great popularity throughout Turkey and Greece. **Feb. 21: Tim Prosser.** A mix of folk and pop covers and originals by this local singer-mandolinist, who is joined by guest musicians TBA. **Feb. 22: Sterling G Project.** See above. **Feb. 28: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 29: The Randaliers.** A diverse mix of familiar and lesser-known rock, blues, alt-country and R&B covers by this local trio of chanteuse Vicki Dischler and guitarists C. Russell and Phil Campbell.

Sweetwaters Plymouth Green
3393 Plymouth 369–4568
This northside coffee shop features occasional live music. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 7: "Talent Night."** Open mic. All musicians invited. 7 p.m.

Ypsi Alehouse
124 Pearl, #100, Ypsilanti 487–1555
This brewpub features live music Tues. & Thurs.–Sat. eve., times TBA, and Sun 2–4 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 2: The Parsnips.** Ypsilanti pop-rock quartet. **Feb. 4: Devyn Mitchell.** Plymouth pop-folk singer-songwriter. 7–9 p.m. **Feb. 9: "Celtic Jam."** Traditional Irish tunes on traditional instruments. **Feb. 12: Pittsfield Open Band.** All musicians invited for open jam of old-time American and Irish dance tunes. 7–9 p.m. **Feb. 16: The Parsnips.** See above. **Feb. 19: John Louis Good.** Jackson singer and multi-instrumentalist who plays folk and country music on guitar, harmonica, kazoo, jaw harp, and bass. 7–9 p.m. **Feb. 22: Barker & Broski,** the local proto-punk rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter duo of Michael Snyder-Barker and Chris Broski. 8–10 p.m. **Feb. 23: "Celtic Jam."** See above. Remainder of February schedule TBA.

Zal Gaz Grotto
2070 W. Stadium 663–1202
This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7–10 p.m., Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & most Fri. & Sat. 8–11 p.m. The Tues. shows are preceded at 4:45 p.m. by a couple dancing lesson by Peggy & Bruce Amrine. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: "Swing Night."** Swing dancing with **Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings** (Feb. 2 & 16), a local 10-piece big band led by tubaist Chris Smith specializing in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver, or the **Royal Garden Trio** (Feb. 9 & 23), a trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney that plays early jazz standards and Hot Club–style gypsy jazz. **Every Mon: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble founded by the late saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Feb. 1: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. **Feb. 7: Shoot the Messenger.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-bassist Chris Goerke. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. With singer-guitarist Steve Newhouse and singer-drummer Tom Twiss. **Feb. 14: Medicine Men.** This local quartet plays danceable 60s–80s rock covers from the Doors to the Allman Brothers to Lynyrd Skynyrd. **Feb. 21: She-Bop.** Local girl-group-style trio of lead vocalist Elizabeth Royce, singer-guitarist Laurie Lounsbury, and singer–French hornist Morgan Lamonica. With guitarist Johnny Rasmussen, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer Kinks Heiss. **Feb. 22: Salmagundi.** Local horn-powered Motown/Memphis soul tribute band. **Feb. 28: Naked Ace.** Local 11-piece rock, blues, and soul cover band. **Feb. 29: Extrusions.** Local vintage rock and Motown band.

Zou Zou's Café
101 N. Main, Chelsea 433–4226
Newly renovated and expanded café features live music Thurs.–Sat, 8–10 p.m. and Tues. & Wed. 7–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: "Groovy Tuesday."** Folk & blues Americana by the Chelsea trio of guitarists Mike Steele & Tommy Reifel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzemeier. **Every Wed.: Open Mic.** All acoustic musicians invited. **Feb. 1: Bill Edwards.** Veteran local country singer-songwriter whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. His collaboration with former Ann Arborite Whit Hill, "What'd I Do," was featured in the HBO series *True Blood.* **Feb. 6: Pete Bullard & the Zou Animals.** Blues, swing, and rockabilly by an ensemble led by veteran local guitarist Bullard. **Feb. 7: Michael Katon & Todd Perkins.** Blues and blues-rock by the veteran local duo of singer-guitarist Katon and bassist Perkins. **Feb. 8: Brown, Falk, & Groth.** A mix of originals and offbeat covers by this veteran Michigan Americana roots music trio whose music runs the gamut from country, bluegrass, & folk to blues & jazz. **Feb. 13: Blue Rays Trio.** Eclectic blues-based trio with bassist Ralph McKee, guitarist Peter Holland, and harmonica player Tim Douthit. **Feb. 14: Rochelle Clark & Jason Dennie.** Bluegrass-based Americana duo. **Feb. 15: Mike Ball & Madcat Ruth.** Ball, a veteran Whitmore Lake singer-songwriter known for his quirky, funny, and sometimes heartrending blues and folk-style originals, is joined by Ruth, the world-class Ann Arbor harmonica wizard whose repertoire embraces folk, rock, and jazz. **Feb. 20: Rollie Tussing & Friends.** Ensemble led by Tussing, a nationally known local guitar virtuoso who specializes in prewar blues and jazz. **Feb. 21: Dave Boutette.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Bob Dylan to Paul Westerberg. He performs with his wife, singer Kristi Davis, a former Radio City Rockette. **Feb. 22: Robin Grant Project.** Local folk-rock ensemble led by vocalist Grant. **Feb. 27: Pete Bullard & the Zou Animals.** See above. **Feb. 28: Dale Osborn.** Leo Kottke–style singer-guitarist from Chelsea who performs tasty covers and originals. **Feb. 29: Adam Labeaux & Sara Gibson.** Improvisational soul-flavored folk-rock by this duo from the Cloudbuilders, singer-guitarist Labeaux and cellist Gibson.

February Events

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

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We want to know about your event!

We give priority to Ann Arbor events, but we also list events elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the **deadline** (the 10th day of the preceding month) might not be included (but will be added to our online calendar at AnnArborObserver.com). Please send a press release by:

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** 769–3175
- **Mail:** Calendar Editors, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **Fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

Tickets for events highlighted in yellow are available at a2tix.com.

What gets in?

Due to space limitations, **many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar at annarborobserver.com.** Also, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur, most recurrent events that do appear in print are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence. Thus, the first week of each month, especially, will always contain information about events throughout the month.

The calendar available at **annarborobserver.com** is not only an expanded version of the Observer print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. Additionally, it includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for the Observer calendar, which focuses exclusively on entertainment and other leisure activities.

★ ***Denotes a free event***

1 SATURDAY

★**"Ann Arbor Group Runs": Running Fit.** *Every Mon. & Sat.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a 3–8 mile run along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Also, a speed-training session (every Tues. 6:30 p.m., 5700 Jackson Rd.). Snacks. Snow or shine. *6:30 p.m. (Mon.), 123 E. Liberty & 8 a.m. (Sat.), 5700 Jackson Rd. Free. 769–5016 (Mon.), 929–9022 (Tues. & Sat. Jackson Rd. run).*

10th Annual Ann Arbor City Dodgeball Tournament: Skyline High School Crew Team Fundraiser. Adults and kids grades 6 & up invited to form co-ed teams of 5 players (middle school) or 7–10 players (high school & adult) to compete in round-robin and elimination tournaments. Prizes for top teams in each of the 3 divisions (youth in grades 6–8, high school, and open adult), and awards for best costume in each division. All teams in high school and adult divisions must start at least 1 female. Food concessions. *8:30–11 a.m. (middle school), 11:45 a.m.–2:45 p.m. (high school), & 3–6 p.m. (adult), Skyline, 2552 N. Maple. $100 (middle school, $50) per team; preregistration for teams required by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31 at AnnArborDodgeball.com. lidb987@gmail.com*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Daily.* Assembled riders decide on the pace, distance, and destination. Call ahead to confirm ride. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. *10 a.m. (daily) & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), meet at Wheeler Park (Sat. & Sun.) & Bird Hills parking lot (Mon.–Fri.), Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. (Sat. & Sun.) & Bird Hills parking lot, 1951 Newport (Mon.–Fri.). 347–1259 (for Mon.–Fri. ride only), 996–8440, 996–9122.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Speedway.** *Feb. 1, 15, & 29.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country. Features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10 a.m. (registration, 8–9:30 a.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. $15 to race (with rental car, $25). (517) 290–7128.*

Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. *Feb. 1, 5, 8, 15, & 29.* Programs led by Hudson Mills naturalist Kim Sherwin. *Feb. 1:* **"Neat-ure Crafts 101"** (10 a.m.–noon). Ages 16 & up invited to make a decorative coat hanger out of gathered twigs. Bring other homemade crafts for inspiration; $8. *Feb. 5:* **"Snow Day"** (10–11 a.m.). Ages 3–4 (with caregiver) invited to paint the snow, look for animal signs, and have other snowy adventures; $5. *Feb 8:* **"Winter Birding"** (10 a.m.–noon). Guided walk to find some of the hardier winter birds. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars; $5. *Feb. 15:* **"Tracking a Snowman"** (10–11:30 a.m.). Ages 6 & up invited on a walk in search of a snowman (weather permitting) and/or signs of other animals. Afterward, kids can build and decorate their own snowman; $5. *Feb. 29:* **"Codes of Nature"** (10–11 a.m.). Ages 3–6 invited to learn how color is used in nature. $5. *Various times, park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. Various fees, preregistration required; $10 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

Gluten Free WinterFest. Celiac-safe celebration with food and shopping vendors, exhibits of gluten free products, recorded music spun by a DJ, activities for kids, door prizes, & more. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Washtenaw County Fairgrounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets $10 (seniors & kids ages 6–12, $8; ages 5 & under, free) includes $5 food voucher. 504–8103.*

U-M Museum of Natural History Planetarium. *Every Thurs., Sat., Sun., & Feb. 18.* Three audio-visual planetarium shows suitable for all ages. ***The Sky Tonight*** (Thurs. 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30, & 2:30 p.m., & Feb. 18), is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Cosmic Colors*** (Sat., Sun., & Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m.), examines the spectrum of energy we call light. Preceded by a brief star talk. ***Two Small Pieces of Glass*** (Sat., Sun., & Feb. 18, 3:30 p.m.) shows how telescopes big & little, simple & complex, use light to work. *Various times, U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Tickets $8. 764–0478.*

★**Lab Chats: U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* Short all-ages lecture-demos by museum educators in the museum atriums. **"Paleo Prep Lab Chat"** (11:30 a.m.) shows the tools and skills needed to prepare and cast fossils for research and display. **"Biodiversity Lab Chat"** (3:30 p.m.) shows how and why scientists process DNA samples from plants and animals. *Various times, MNH, 1105 North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**U-M Museum of Natural History Tours.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* Thirty-minute guided tours showcasing both long-beloved and new exhibits. **"Museum Highlights Tour"** (noon & 4 p.m.) shows a mastodon couple, the Majungasaurus dinosaur, and the new research labs. **"Wonderful World of Whales"** (2 p.m.) shows how whales and dolphins made the transition from land back to water. *Various times, MNH, 1105 North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. Also, at 5 p.m. on Feb. 7 only, U-M carillon students perform global folk tunes. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369–3107.*

★**"Fairy Party": Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea.** All invited to join fairy door creator Jonathan Wright in fairy-themed crafts, face painting, photo taking, & more. Also, fairy storybook reading (2–3 p.m.) Hot cocoa & cupcakes. *Noon–4 p.m., Sweetwaters, 123 W. Washington. Free. 769–2331.*

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT AADL

The Living Oral History Project
SATURDAY, FEB 1 • 1-3:00PM
SCREENING DTN LOBBY
This event is in partnership with the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County.

SECRET LAB INVENTORS SERIES | **James West: Desktop Stereo Microphone**
FRIDAY, FEB 7 • 6-8:00PM
LECTURE/HANDS-ON DTN SECRET LAB

AUTHOR EVENT | **Debbie Taylor: Over In Motown!**
SATURDAY, FEB 8 • 2-3:00PM
LECTURE/HANDS-ON MALLETTS CREEK
PRESCHOOL–ADULT
This event includes a signing with books for sale.

FILM | **Freedom Riders**
TUESDAY, FEB 11 • 6:30-8:30PM
SCREENING DTN MULTI-PURPOSE RM
This film is not rated.

Motown Legends Gospel Choir
TUESDAY, FEB 18 • 7-8:00PM
CONCERT DTN LOBBY

AADL.ORG/BLACKHISTORYMONTH

The Roots of Hip Hop Music
SATURDAY, FEB 22 • 2-3:30PM
LECTURE DTN MULTI-PURPOSE RM

The African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County
SUNDAY, FEB 23 • 2-3:30PM
LECTURE WESTGATE
This event is in partnership with the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County.

AUTHOR EVENT | **Rochelle Riley: The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery**
THURSDAY, FEB 27 • 7-8:30PM
LECTURE DTN MULTI-PURPOSE RM
This event includes a signing with books for sale.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

AADL.ORG

FEB 1

THE LIVING ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 • 1-3:00PM
Drop-in to watch video segments from AADL's Living Oral History Project and pick up a map to discover more about local African American history. *The Living Oral History Project is presented in partnership with the African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County. This event is part of AADL's Black History Month series.*

FEB 4

AUTHOR EVENT | **JIM OTTAVIANI: ASTRONAUTS: WOMEN ON THE FINAL FRONTIER**
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 7-8:30PM
Jim Ottaviani comes to the Library to launch (no pun intended) his new book, illustrated by Maris Wicks, about female astronauts. *This event is in partnership with Literati Bookstore and includes a signing with books for sale.*

FEB 4

AUTHOR EVENT | **WILLIAM D. LOPEZ: SEPARATED: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN THE AFTERMATH OF AN IMMIGRATION RAID**
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 7-8:30PM
Local author William D. Lopez examines the lasting damage done by this daylong act of collaborative immigration enforcement in Washtenaw County, Michigan. *This event includes a signing with books for sale, and is part of the 2020 Washtenaw Read. For more information about Washtenaw Reads and previous years' reads, visit wread.org.*

FEB 5

MARTIN BANDYKE'S MOVING PICTURES: A PREVIEW OF THE 92ND ACADEMY AWARDS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • 7-8:30PM
Martin Bandyke, movie fanatic and morning drive host on ann arbor's 107one (WQKL-FM), and Russ Collins, President/CEO of the Michigan Theater and State Theatre, will show film clips and discuss the Oscar nominees for the 92nd Academy Awards, honoring the best movies of 2019. *Although this event will be held at the State Theatre, there is no charge to attend.* • **STATE THEATER, 233 S STATE ST, ANN ARBOR**

FEB 6

SPORTS WRITER JON MOROSI
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 7-8:30PM
Michigan native Jon Morosi will share how he has navigated a career in the evolving field of sports media as well as his observations during trips to cover games in Cuba, Mexico and Japan.

FEB 8

AUTHOR EVENT | **DEBBIE TAYLOR: OVER IN MOTOWN!**
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 • 2-3:00PM
Enjoy a reading and discussion of **Over In Motown!**, an energetic picture book celebrating the musical genres and rhythms of the industry that fueled Detroit in the Motown era. The event includes a simple craft for children. *This event is part of AADL's Black History Month series and will include a signing with books for sale.* • **PRESCHOOL-ADULT MALLETTS CREEK BRANCH**

FEB 10

FILM | **THE 57TH ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL TOURING PROGRAM**
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 • 6:30-8:30PM
Join Leslie Raymond, Ann Arbor Film Festival Director, for a screeing that includes award-winning experimental, documentary, animation, narrative, and hybrids from the most recent festival.

FEB 12

A HISTORY OF AMERICAN TAP DANCE: ORIGINS AND ARTISTRY OF A TRUE AMERICAN ART FORM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • 7-8:30PM
American Tap Dance fused dance traditions from Europe and Africa to create a unique art form. This presentation will feature rare (and all-time favorite) video clips of the all-time great tap dancers as well as a live demonstration and mini tap lesson. *This event in partnership with UMS and is in conjunction with the Dorrance Dance performances on February 21st and 22nd at the Power Center.*

FEB 13

SUSTAINABLE ANN ARBOR | **FORUM ON CARBON NEUTRALITY IN THE MOBILITY SECTOR**
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 7-8:30PM
Join us for a discussion about how we can achieve carbon neutrality within the mobility sector. Learn about emerging ideas and find out how you can help the city achieve its carbon neutrality goals. *Sustainable Ann Arbor is an annual series presented by the City of Ann Arbor and hosted by the Ann Arbor District Library.*

FEB 16

WASHTENAW COUNTY CSA FAIR
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • NOON-3:00PM
Meet local farmers and learn about Community Supported Agriculture options for your seasonal produce needs! Ask questions of the farmers, sign up for a CSA, and find out where to buy local produce.

FEB 18

MOTOWN LEGENDS GOSPEL CHOIR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 • 7-8:00PM
Enjoy a special Black History Month concert by The Motown Legends Gospel Choir, one of the most eminent gospel choirs in the Detroit metropolitan area. *This event is part of AADL's Black History Month series.*

FEB 23

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL & HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF WASHTENAW COUNTY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 2-3:30PM
Join us for this special presentation as Joyce M. Hunter, the Museum's President/CEO, discusses the new museum and exciting plans for its future. *This event is part of AADL's Black History Month series.* • **WESTGATE**

FEB 27

AUTHOR EVENT | **ROCHELLE RILEY: THE BURDEN: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ENDURING IMPACT OF SLAVERY**
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 • 7-8:30PM
In a presentation entitled "Slavery didn't end: Facing the truth in the age of MAGA," Rochelle Riley, author and former award winning columnist at the Detroit Free Press will discuss her book and how slavery "just changed addresses, moving from plantations into boardrooms, courtrooms, classrooms, newsrooms, hospitals, neighborhoods and cultural institutions." *This event includes a signing with books for sale.*

EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE.
NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

For information on these events and more, please visit aadl.org

"As Far As My Fingertips Take Me": U-M Institute for the Humanities (University Musical Society). *Jan. 24–Feb. 2, except Jan. 27.* Lebanese artist **Tania El Khoury** curates this 10-minute interactive performance art piece in which each ticketholder has a one-on-one tactile interaction with street artist and Palestinian refugee **Basel Zaraa**. Equipped with a headset playing a prerecorded audio piece, participants stretch their arm through a hole in a wall while listening to Zaraa recount his family's history of dispersion and endless search for home. On the other side of the wall, Zaraa takes a black marker to the participant's fingertips, palm, and forearm, redrawing his and other refugees' journey. The aim is to break through the punditry of the 24-hour news cycle and its attendant apathy in order to awaken empathy through touch. *Noon–5 p.m. (Feb. 1 & 2), every 15 minutes on the quarter. U-M Institute for the Humanities, 202 S. Thayer. Tickets $25–$30 in advance only at tickets.UMS.org. 764–2538.*

★DIY Bath Bombs: Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make hard-packed mixtures of dry ingredients that effervesce when wet, releasing essential oils, scent, bubbles, and color to bathwater. Materials provided. *1–2 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

"Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Conservancy staffers show off animals native to the African continent, including the **African crested porcupine** (2 & 4 p.m.). Also, presentations every half hour of animals TBA and a chance to see the conservancy's other animals, including a sloth, a kangaroo, bald eagle, an Arctic fox, and more. *1–5 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (ages 2–12, $8; ages 1 & under, free). 929–9324.*

★"The Living Oral History Project": Ann Arbor District Library. Showing of filmed interviews from the African American Cultural & Historical Museum's Living Oral History project, which records the experiences of area black residents throughout the 20th century. Also, maps available of local African American history sites. *1–3 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★"PomPomPalooza": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make crafts with small colorful woolen balls. *2–4 p.m. AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Saturday Sampler": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. *Every Sat.* Docent-led themed tours of the museum. *Feb. 1:* **"Ancient Writing."** *Feb. 8:* **"Read and Look: Tickle Tut's Toes,"** suitable for all ages. *Feb. 15:* **"Rome Through the Eyes of Its Emperors."** *Feb. 22:* **"Graffiti as Devotion Along the Nile."** *Feb. 29:* **"Fakes, Forgeries, and Really Good Replicas."** *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764–9304.*

Argentine Tango Practice: Sophia & El Kronox. *Every Sat.* Tango dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience necessary. Preceded at 1 p.m. by a lesson ($10). *2–3 p.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (with lesson, free). SophiaTango.com, 634–9629.*

"Buhr Blitz": Ann Arbor Parks & Rec. Public skating, with a family-oriented program of games and contests. Prizes. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths ages 17 & under and seniors ages 60 & over, $5); $1 discount for Ann Arbor residents. Skate rentals, $3. 794–6234.*

★Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. *Feb. 1 & 15.* All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 994–9307.*

★"Kindred": In Good Company African American Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Octavia Butler's 1979 novel about a 20th-century black woman who is transported in time to the antebellum South. *4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"Metaphysics and Emotional Intelligence": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room. *Feb. 1 & 15.* Talk by local amateur philosopher G. Arthur Weidman. *6:30–8 p.m. or so, Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

42nd Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. *Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 (different programs).* A major highlight of the local musical year, with established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Tonight's show is headlined by a solo acoustic set by **Nathaniel Rateliff,** a Denver folk-rock singer-songwriter whose pensive country-oriented music has drawn comparisons to M. Ward and Johnny Cash. Also appearing: **Mandolin Orange,** a North Carolina bluegrass-based roots music duo of mandolinist Andrew Marlin and fiddler-guitarist Emily Frantz. **Bettye LaVette,** a veteran Detroit R&B and soul singer with a tough, feisty, passionate vocal style. *Rolling Stone*'s Joe Levy calls

seniors

Ann Arbor Senior Center (1320 Baldwin Ave., 794–6250). Weekly activities $2 (members, free) except as noted. **Chinese Mah-Jongg.** ($2; members, free). Mon. noon–3 p.m. **Bridge.** ACBL non-sanctioned (Mon. 12:30–3:30 p.m., $3; members, $2) & sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs. noon, $7; members, $6). **Euchre.** Mon. 6–8 p.m. **Scrabble.** Tues., 10 a.m.–noon, with lunch available (11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m., $5.50; age 60 & over, $3). **American Mah-Jongg.** Wed. noon–3 p.m. **Movie Matinee.** Informal screening of a DVD TBA in the lobby. Popcorn. Wed. 1–3 p.m.

U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program (2401 Plymouth, 998–9353). Free weekly activities. **Bridge.** Some experience necessary. Mon. & Fri. 12:30–4:30 p.m. **Walking Group.** Canceled for inclement weather, Mon., Wed., & Fri., 12:30–1 p.m. **Chess.** Wed. 1–4 p.m. **Mah-Jongg.** Thurs. 10 a.m.–noon. **Writing Group.** Participants read and discuss their poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences. Feb. 3, 1–3 p.m. **"Una Tertulia."** Socialize with other Spanish speakers. Feb. 4 & 18, 3–4 p.m. **"2020 Census 101."** Talk by League of Women Voters member Margaret Leary. Feb. 10, 2–3 p.m.; preregistration required. **Scrabble.** Feb. 18, 2–4 p.m. **Crafting Group,** bring your own craft to work on. Feb. 27, 3–4:30 p.m.

Feb. 13 (noon): **"Congress: How It Worked & Why It Doesn't": First Presbyterian Church Lunch & Learn.** Talk by Hillsdale College politics professor Kevin Portteus. For age 60 & up. *FPC, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free (hot lunch, $5), preregistration requested. 662–4466.*

her 2018 album of Bob Dylan covers "remarkable" and "full of grit, brass, and soul." **Molly Tuttle,** a young bluegrass singer-songwriter who *American Songwriter* critic Paul Zollo says "sings with the gentle authority of Gillian Welch, yet plays astoundingly fleet flat-picking guitar like Chet Atkins on superdrive." **John Moreland**, an alt-country Americana singer-songwriter from Tulsa known for his sparsely acoustic style and lyrics about heartbreak, loneliness, and love. **Cold Tone Harvest,** the Plymouth acoustic roots music trio with rich baritone vocals and poetic lyrics. Emcee is veteran pop-folk singer-songwriter Willy Porter. *6:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $45–$110 per night or $80–$200 for both, in advance at the Michigan League Underground, the Ark box office, TheArk.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State. *Jan. 31 & Feb. 1.* This month's schedule also includes a series vs. **Wisconsin** (Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. & Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.) and **Notre Dame** (Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. & 22 at 4 p.m.). *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Tickets TBA at mGOblue.com/tickets & at the door. 764–0247.*

"Drum & Dance Jam": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a group drumming session led by local certified drum circle facilitator Don Allen. Also, undirected freeform dancing, if you wish. No experience required. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd, ste. 1. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270.*

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Carol Steiner calls to music by Debbie Jackson & friends. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring clean shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Pay what you can ($10 suggested). 769–1052, 274–0773.*

★Beethoven's Early Piano Sonatas on Period Instruments: U-M School of Music. U-M piano professor Matthew Bengston and music students Sheila Victoria Pietono and Forrest Howell each perform one of the Three Sonatas op. 31 on a 5-octave Viennese-style piano. With commentary by musicology professor Steven Whiting. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

Joe DeVito: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 30 & 31 and Feb. 1.* Popular NYC comic whose act is a fast-paced blend of mordantly irreverent observational one-liners with self-deprecating storytelling about love, his Italian American family, and current events. He was one of the principal writers for Morgan Spurlock's satirical documentary *Super Size Me.* Preceded by 2 opening acts TBA. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance at etix.com before 6 p.m. the night of the show; $12 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Winter Céilí": Stony Lake Brewing Acoustic Routes Concert. A night of Celtic music and dance with **Liz Carroll**, a celebrated Irish American fiddler known for what one reviewer called "quicksilver lines" who was named 2000 Traditional Musician of the Year by the *Irish Echo.* She is joined by step dancer **Nic Gareiss** and Celtic harpist **Maeve Gilchrist.** They play original compositions, along with some traditional pieces. *8 p.m., Stony Lake Brewing, 447 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Tickets $20 in advance at EventBrite.com & (if available) at the door. 316–7919.*

"Wine, Women, and Song: A Funny Thing Happened On the Way …": Kerrytown Concert House. An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers. With pianist Tyler Driskill. Singers include Laurie Atwood, Linda Beaupré, Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Roxy Diederich, Shelley MacMillan, Deanna Relyea, Emily Rogers, Susan Shipman, Monica Swartout-Bebow, Lisa Tucker-Gray, and Kathy Waugh. Wine is served. This popular event usually sells out. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $25–$75 (students, $15) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

"An Evening of Scenes": U-M Residential College Players. *Jan. 31 & Feb. 1.* RC students direct and perform this popular semiannual program of 5–6 brief comic sketches written by RC students. *8 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 East University. Pay what you can. 647–4354.*

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Jan. 31–Feb. 23.* David Wolber directs the Michigan premiere of Oregon-based playwright E. M. Lewis's family drama about a woman's tangled past that resurfaces after her father dies. Stars Alysia Kolascz, Matthew Swift, & Jeremy Kucharek. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron. Tickets $22 in advance at Artful.Ly/Theatre-Nova and (if available) at the door. Members ($75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635–8450.*

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Jan 16–Mar. 14.* Guy Sanville directs the world premiere of Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels' new play, a lyrical drama about a young poet who, as he embarks on his own life's journey, encounters a rich gallery of characters on the margins of life who are each following a dream, or hoping to bump into one. Cast: David Bendena, Tom Whalen, Richard McWilliams, Rusty Mewha, Ruth Crawford, K. Edmonds, Kristin Shields, and Caitlin Cavanaugh. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), PRT, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $32 (Wed.), $28 (Thurs.), $42 (Fri. eve.), $43 (weekend matinees), $46 (Sat. eve.) in advance at PurpleRoseTheatre.org, by phone, & (if available) at the door; discounts available. 433–7673.*

"Forte Factory": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. This resident musical improv team improvises a one-act musical inspired by a conversation with the audience. *8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15 (8 p.m.) & $12 (10 p.m.) in advance at PointlessBrew.com & at the door. (989) 455–4484.*

"Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription": Half Straddle (University Musical Society). *Jan. 29–Feb. 2.* NYC-based experimental playwright Tina Satter directs her verbatim staging of the transcript that occurred on June 3, 2017 when a fleet of FBI agents showed up unannounced at the home of a 25-year-old former intelligence specialist with the improbable name of Reality Winner. She was charged with leaking a single classified document about Russian election hacking. Dramatically precise, the transcript notes every sigh, stray sound, & offhand remark. With musician Sanae Yamada's disorienting synth-based score. *7:30 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin. Tickets $35–$40 (students, $12–$20), in advance at tickets.UMS.org, at Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

2 SUNDAY

★Weekend Walk: Washtenaw Audubon Society. *Feb. 2, 16, & 23.* All invited to join WAS members on a leisurely winter walk in search of birds. *Feb. 2:* **Ford Lake,** meet at the parking lot off of S. Grove St. at the northeast corner of the lake. *Feb. 16:* **Gallup Park,** meet at the park parking lot at the east terminus of Gallup Park Rd. *Feb. 23:* **U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens,** meet at the parking lot in front of the conservatory. *9 a.m., various locations. Free. WashtenawAudubon.org*

★"Everybody Counts: Washtenaw Reads 2020 Discussion": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. All invited to discuss ***Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen,*** Pulitzer-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas's memoir about his life as an undocumented immigrant. Led by Albion College history professor Deborah Kanter. *11:30 a.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Iowa. This month's schedule also includes games vs. **Purdue** (Feb. 6, 6 p.m.), **Northwestern** (Feb. 13, 7 p.m.), and **Illinois** (Feb. 19, 7 p.m.). *Noon, Crisler Center. $8 reserved seating & $6 general admission in advance at mGOblue.com/tickets & at the door. 764–0247.*

"As Far As My Fingertips Take Me": U-M Institute for the Humanities (University Musical Society). See 1 Saturday. Noon–5 p.m.

★"Screen Printing Lab": Ann Arbor District Library. Modati Studios representatives show how to screen print. Materials provided; bring old clothes to print on. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★Hannah O'Brien: UMMA Pop Up. This U-M music student, a fiddler inspired by traditional Irish music, performs a mix of traditional tunes and pop-folk originals. She is accompanied by fellow music student Grant Flick, a fiddler and guitarist with a background in Americana, bluegrass, and jazz. *1–2 p.m., UMMA. Free. 764–0395.*

★Competition & Performance Club Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. Young local skaters show off their skills in pairs and interpretive skating. *1:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 213–6768.*

★Game Playtesting: Michigame Design Lab. *Feb. 2 & 16.* All invited to try out new games from local board and card game designers and provide feedback. *1:30–6 p.m. Bløm Meadworks, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 548–9729.*

Waterloo Natural History Association. *Feb. 2, 9, 16, & 23.* Nature-themed activities. *Feb. 2 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Skins, Scat, & Skulls."** AAPS naturalist Dave Szczygiel uses his large taxidermy collection to discuss specialized body parts used for survival. Followed by an optional walk. *Feb. 9 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Creatures of the Night."** Howell Nature Center representatives show various live nocturnal animals to compare and contrast their behavior and characteristics. *Feb. 16 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Living with Coyotes."** Michigan DNR representative Holly Vaughn discusses the behavior and activities of this native animal. *Feb. 23 (2–3:30 p.m.):* **"Build Your Own Telescope."** Led by local astronomy buff Meg Gower; $8. *Various times, Eddy Discovery Center, 17030 Bush Rd., Chelsea. $2 (family, $5) except as noted; preregistration required (space limited). $11 recreation passport required ($16 if purchased at the gate). 475–3170.*

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Is This A Room: Reality Winner Verbatim Transcription": Half Straddle (University Musical Society). See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★"Drawing for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Sun., except Feb. 23.* Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a different directed drawing activity each week. *Feb. 2:* **"Composition & Design."** *Feb 9:* **"Line & Rhythm."** *Feb. 16:* **"Mosaics and Cut Paper."** *3–5:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

St. Olaf Choir: Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series. A cappella performance of sacred music by the renowned 75-voice St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN) choir. *3 p.m., Zion Sanctuary, 1501 W. Liberty. Tickets $30 (students, $10) in advance at wp.StOlaf.edu/tickets & at the door. 994–4455.*

★"Vive la France": EMU Music Department. EMU organ professor Michael Burkhardt performs a program of French organ music and music based on French folk songs. *4–6 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–6842.*

★InKyung Lee: U-M School of Music. This pianist performs a program TBA. *5 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

★Ann Arbor Morris. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu or check MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Morris-Dancing in advance to confirm. 717–1569.*

★Malaysian Culture Night: U-M Malaysian Student Association. U-M students perform Malaysian theater and dance. Malaysian food served after the show. *6–9 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Free. Hanssdd@umich.edu*

★"Music for Meditation": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Local veteran harpist **Deborah Gabrion** performs works by Debussy and Manuel de Falla. *7:15 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Joseph "Rev Run" Simmons & Justine Simmons: Michigan Theater/Nicola's Books. The frontman of the seminal 80s new-school hip-hop group Run-DMC and his wife discuss ***Old School Love and Why It Works***, their new book on their 25-year marriage and advice for building strong and lasting relationships. The price of admission includes a copy of the book. Signing. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets*

COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOLS

2020 – 2021 ENROLLMENT OPEN HOUSES

FUMCN Co-op Preschool
Sat., Feb 1, 10am–12pm
Wed., Feb 5, 10am–12pm
120 S. State Street, Ann Arbor
662-7660 www.fumcnpreschool.org

Ann Arbor Nursery, Inc.
A Cooperative Preschool
Sat., Feb 8, 10am–12pm
517 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor
769-7966 www.annarbornursery.com

Glacier Way Westside Co-op Preschool
Sat., Feb 1, 10am–12pm
Thurs., Feb 6, 6pm–7:30pm
900 South 7th Street, Ann Arbor
995-0707 www.glacierwaycoop.org

Stone School Cooperative Preschool
Sat., Feb 8, 11am–2pm
2811 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor
971-4820 www.stoneschool.org

Triangle Cooperative Preschool
Sat., Feb 8, 10am-12pm
1432 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor
221-0905 www.trianglecoop.org

Ypsilanti Cooperative Preschool
Thurs., Feb 6, 4pm-7pm
111 South Wallace Blvd, Ypsilanti
485-8775 www.ypsicoop.org

Please call the preschool's office for alternate date if open house falls on an official snow day.

The above listed schools admit students of any race, creed, color, national, and ethnic origin. For full nondiscrimination statements please visit the individual preschool's website.

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Thursdays at 7:30 PM
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THE DOWNFALL OF OSEN (1935) FEB. 13
TOKYO DRIFTER (1966) FEB. 20
LADY SNOWBLOOD (1973) FEB. 27
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poetry

Ilya Kaminsky

He who has ears to hear

CYBELE KNOWLES, COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POETRY CENTER

Ilya Kaminsky's *Deaf Republic* seemed to appear on everyone's "Best of 2019" list. His first book, *Dancing in Odessa,* created a stir in 2004, and he waited fifteen years before publishing this one. During that time, he traveled widely, giving readings in his unique style. Those who go back a long way in Ann Arbor might remember the way in which future Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky read his poems when he first arrived in town: incantatory, projecting a cadence that was personal and quirky, barely reflecting the actual meaning of the words. Kaminsky reads like that.

Deaf Republic was worth the wait. The book is more a particular parable than it is a collection of poems—a story that might be teaching us a moral, or even a political point. Kaminsky divides his parable into two acts. The first starts when invading soldiers shoot a deaf boy, Petya, in the street. He is mourned by his cousin and her husband, who are about to have their own child. As a kind of protest, or maybe in shock, the town is struck deaf: "Our country woke up next morning and refused to hear soldiers. In the name of Petya, we refuse."

It is worth noting that Kaminsky himself is hearing impaired. After illness deafened him at four, he heard almost nothing until he immigrated to America at sixteen and received his first hearing aids. The idea of deafness has a weight and a resonance for this poet that most of us can only imagine. In a note at the end of the book, entitled "ON SILENCE," he writes, "The deaf don't believe in silence. Silence is the invention of the hearing."

The second act of *Deaf Republic* starts after the parents of the newborn girl have been executed, perhaps for their silent resistance. The rest of the town, performers, puppeteers, and prostitutes, keep the baby alive and hide her from the army. Because the names are mostly Russian, it is easy to turn this into a parable of the Crimea, where Kaminsky is originally from, but this poet doesn't allow that limitation. In the first poem in the book, "We Lived Happily during the War," Kaminsky writes "I was/in my bed, around my bed America//was falling." The poem concludes:

> In the sixth month
> of a disastrous reign in the house of money
> in the street of money in the city of money in the country of money,
> our great country of money, we (forgive us)
> lived happily during the war.

So what does Kaminsky's parable "mean?" Maybe it isn't the job of a parable to offer something that can be summarized outside of the story. Even Christ himself, after telling one of his memorable parables, was known to say, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Ilya Kaminsky reads at UMMA at 5:30 p.m. on February 6.

—*Keith Taylor*

$32 (couples, $47) in advance at MichTheater.org & Nicola's, & at the door. 662–0600.

3 MONDAY

★**"How to Revise Your Writing": Ann Arbor District Library Emerging Writers.** All invited to this discussion with local veteran short story writer Alex Kourvo. Also, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17, Kourvo and mèmoir writer Lara Zielin answer questions, share resources, and critique your writing, if you wish. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Zzzz: Practical Help for Getting a Better Night's Sleep": Lifetree Café.** All invited to join a conversation led by St. Paul Lutheran Church members. *7–8 p.m., 500 W. Liberty. Free. 665–7912.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($40 monthly dues for those who join). a2RecorderSociety.org*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 274–0773.*

★**"The State of the State": Michigan Radio Issues & Ale.** All invited to join Michigan Radio *It's Just Politics* hosts **Zoe Clark** and **Rick Pluta** on a discussion of Governor Whitmer's Jan. 29 statewide address. *6:30–8 p.m., Bløm Meadworks, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, food & drink for sale; preregistration recommended (space limited) at bit.ly/itsjustpolitics. 764–9210.*

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. *Feb. 3–9.* Alice Yorke directs **Lee Minora** in Minora's one-woman satire of mainstream liberal feminism based on her talk show *Becky's Time*. Minora plays a vain talk show host who rattles off a series of senseless apologies, purchasing habits, and moment-altering declarations that make her a prominent voice in new wave feminism. One reporter calls it a "wonderfully crafted and very convincing embodiment of the problematic and harmful 'white feminist.'" Followed by an **audience discussion,** and on Feb. 3 only, a **Q&A with Minora & Yorke**. *7:30 p.m. (Mon.–Thurs.), 11:30 a.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), and 6 p.m. (Sun.), U-M Duderstadt Center video studio, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. Tickets $35–$45 (students, $12–$20), in advance at tickets.UMS.org, at Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

Argentine Tango Practice: Tangolab. *Every Mon.* Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. Preceded by **lessons** for beginners (6:30 p.m.) & intermediate/advanced dancers (7:30 p.m.) *8:30–11:30 p.m., Pittsfield Union Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $5 (with lesson, $10). 819–1292.*

4 TUESDAY

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. *Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session) through May 14.* All women invited to study the Bible with other American and

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Mistaken For Strangers* (Jan. 31–Feb. 28). Exhibit by 6x, a collective of 6 contemporary jewelry artists, that examines the interconnectedness of their individual practices. Closing reception Feb. 28, 6–8 p.m. Mon.–Fri., 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *One-Shot Stanger* (Feb. 3–Mar. 13, 2nd fl. exhibition space). Photos of Ann Arborites by the late Eck Stanger, chief photographer at the *Ann Arbor News* for more than 40 years. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4200.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Avenue. *Celebrating Ten Years of the Peer-to-Peer Depression Program.* (Feb. 21–Mar. 8, lower level display cases & multipurpose rm.). Posters and artwork, meant to raise awareness about depression and anxiety, made by middle and high school students in this U-M–led program. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun., noon–6 p.m. 327–4200.

Argus Museum, 525 W. William (2nd floor). *Pin-Up Women.* (Feb. 27–Apr. 24). Multimedia works exploring the significance of the laundry line, by Ann Arbor Women Artists members Susan Lawless, Sophie Grillet, Daniela Gobetti and Sally Silvennoinen. Reception Feb. 27, 5:30–8 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 769–0770.

Concordia University Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes. *The Stranger in Heaven* (Jan. 28–Feb. 23). Hand-sewn clothing made of paper receipts and tickets by Korean artist Dong Kyu Kim, a former fashion designer. Reception Feb. 13, 7–9 p.m. Tues.–Fri. noon–4 p.m. 995–7300.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Annual Juried Student Show* (Feb. 11–Mar. 10). Reception Feb. 11, 4:30–6:30. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–0465.

EMU University Art Gallery, EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *EMU Art Department Faculty Show* (Feb. 11–Mar. 6). Reception Feb. 19, 4:30–6:30. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 487–0465.

EMU IGG Gallery, EMU Student Center rm. 236, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Anne Buford & Lauren Petty* (Jan. 10–21). Multimedia works by these EMU art students. Reception Feb. 12 5:30–7 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 2–6 p.m. 487–0465.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *Embrace: The Black Experience.* (Feb. 7–28). Multimedia works by artists TBA exploring blackness and the African American experience. Reception Feb. 7, 7:15 p.m. Thurs. & Fri. 3–8 p.m., Sat. 12–5 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel. *2020 Design & Production Portfolio Review Exhibition* (Feb. 3–Feb. 14). "Behind the scenes" work from U-M music school productions by student stage managers, technicians, and scene, costume, and lighting designers. Reception Jan. 31, 4:30 p.m. Mon.–Fri., noon–6 p.m. 764–0583.

U-M Institute for the Humanities Gallery, 202 S. Thayer St. *Hometown Hero (Chink): An American Interior.* (Feb. 12–Mar. 12). Large-scale multimedia installation by Valery Jung Estabrook that explores the intersection of Asian American and Southern American identities, featuring a fabric-covered room, a video, and a Confederate flag–themed sofa. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–3518.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Witness Lab* (Feb. 15–May 17). Courtroom installation and performance series by Stamps School artist in residence Courtney McClellan that examine the relationship between performance and law. The installation will host mock trials by U-M acting students, debate clubs, and others. Artist talk Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. (performance times at umma.umich.edu) 764–0395.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Abstraction, Color, and Politics in the 60s and 70s: Kaleidoscope* (Feb. 22–Oct. 25). Abstract paintings by local Detroit artists, women artists, and artists of color. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Visual Symphony Series* (Feb. 4–Mar. 14). Abstract paintings by U-M art professor emeritus Ted Ramsay, each inspired by a different piece of classical music. Reception Feb. 7, 7–9 p.m. Mon.–Thurs. noon–6 p.m., Fri & Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers (child care provided for babies). *9:30–11:15 a.m. & 1:15–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. $25 for the year. 665–0105.*

★**"Is Democracy Promotion Dead?": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies.** Panel discussion with Georgetown University government professor Jennifer Raymond Dresden, Georgetown University Indian politics professor Irfan Nooruddin, and political science professors Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz (MSU), Thomas Flores (George Mason University), and Erica Frantz (MSU). WCED director Dan Slater moderates. *1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. 4–6 p.m. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Penny Stamps Speaker Series": U-M School of Art & Design.** *Feb. 4, 6, 13, 17, & 20.* Talks by visiting artists. *Feb. 4:* Performance of silent film scores & more by **SQÜRL**, the NYC-based rock duo of filmmaker Jim Jarmusch and multi-instrumentalist Carter Logan. *Feb. 6:* New media and video game artist Angela Washko, a Carnegie Mellon art professor, on **"Tactical Embodiment."** *Feb. 13:* Chicago-based visual artists Amanda Williams and Andres L. Hernandez, both members of the design team for the Barack Obama Presidential Center Museum, on **"Liminal Practice(s)."** *Feb. 17:* Multimedia artist & writer Courtney McClellan, whose courtroom-themed installation is on display at UMMA, on **"Observer vs. Witness."** *Feb. 20:* Composer David Lang on **"Music and Bad Manners."** *5:10 p.m. (except Feb. 4, 7 p.m., & Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m.), Michigan Theater (except Feb. 17, UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State). Free. 668–8463.*

★**"Make Your Own Web Page": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to code a webpage, with immediate feedback. No experience necessary. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Training Center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught; no partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. *7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. Suggested donation $8 (students, $4; kids ages 13 & under with caregiver, free). 665–7704.*

★**Jennifer Acker: Literati Bookstore.** This Massachusetts-based fiction writer reads from and discusses ***The Limits of the World,*** her 2019 novel about an Asian-Indian immigrant family from Nairobi and the secrets they keep from each other. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. OSU. This month's schedule also includes games vs. MSU (Feb. 8, noon), Indiana (Feb. 16, 1 p.m.), and Wisconsin (Feb. 27, 7 p.m.). *7 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets TBA at mGOblue.com/tickets & at the gate. 764–0247.*

★**"Chocolate x3": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lakehouse Bakery (Chelsea) owner Keegan Rodgers discusses all things chocolate, highlighting how it's grown, how it's made, and how to cook with it. Tastings. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek, 3090 E. Eisenhower. Free. 327–4200.*

"A2 Community Sing": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All invited to join this monthly gathering to sing songs from the various branches of American folk music. *7–8:30 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. 794–6250.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club:** *Feb. 4 & 18.* Club members show their projected digital images (Feb. 4) and prints (Feb. 18) on various topics, including this month's assigned topic, **"Windows."** Also, club members TBA present **"My Favorite Photo,"** (Feb. 4), and on Feb. 18, local veteran photographer Tim Kellman presents **"Finding the Pony: Towards Better Composition."** *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 327–4781.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***La historia de mis dientes,*** Valeria Luiselli's 2013 novel about a poor auctioneer seeking to improve his life in central Mexico. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier": Ann Arbor District Library/Literati Bookstore.** U-M librarian Jim Ottaviani reads from his new graphic novel. Discussion & signing. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**William D. Lopez: Ann Arbor District Library.** This U-M public health professor William D. Lopez reads from & discusses his new book ***Separated: Family & Community in the Aftermath of an Immigration Raid***—a **2020 Washtenaw Reads** selection—about the lasting effects of a daylong Washtenaw County–wide immigration raid in Nov. 2013. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. See 3 Monday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Faculty Recital: U-M School of Music.** A U-M music faculty trio—clarinetist **Chad Burrow,** violinist & violist **Matt Albert,** and pianist **Amy I-Lin Cheng**—performs a program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

5 WEDNESDAY

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Media, Big Tech, and Democracy: What Happened?": U-M Ford School of Public Policy.** Talk by former FCC commissioner Michael Copps. *4–5:20 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State. Free. 764–3490.*

Prelaunch Party: Wild Swan Theater. Ages 21 & over invited to a "first look and listen" of this award-winning local children's theater's upcoming production ***Coding to the Moon: Margaret Hamilton and the Apollo Missions,*** which follows the NASA team that guided Apollo astronauts to the moon and back. Followed by a Q&A with director, composer, & cast. *5:30–7:30, Circ Bar, 210 S. First St. Tickets $20 (includes appetizers & 1 drink ticket) in advance only at WildSwanTheater.org. 995–0530.*

★**Letterpress Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Wed.* All adults invited to learn the basics of letterpress printing using vintage handset type. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple (park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

★**"Color Away": Sweetwaters Plymouth Green.** *Every Wed.* All adults invited to color. Supplies provided. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters, 3393 Plymouth Rd. Free. 369–4568.*

★**"Martin Bandyke's Moving Pictures: A Preview of the 92nd Academy Awards": Ann Arbor District Library.** 107.1 FM morning host Bandyke and Michigan Theater executive director **Russ Collins** show and discuss clips of Oscar-nominated films. Q&A. *7–8:30 p.m., State Theater. Free. 327–4200, 668–8297.*

★**"The Swinging 60s" Ann Arbor District Library Desserts by Decade.** Local historian Patti Smith discusses regional 1960s history and The Lakehouse Bakery (Chelsea) owner Keegan Rodgers shares popular 1960s recipes. Tastings. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield, *2359 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Piano Music Across the Seven Continents": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M piano grad student Alissa Freeman plays music written on or about each of the continents, pausing periodically to discuss music as a mode of expression. *7–8 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

Robert Jones and Matt Watroba: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Double bill. The longtime former host of WDET's *Blues from the Lowlands* and an ordained Baptist minister, Jones is a singer-guitarist with a huge repertoire that draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions. FolkAlley.com host Watroba sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, accompanying himself on guitar. *7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. $15 suggested donation. For info, call Annie Capps at 330–5226.*

"The Drowsy Chaperone": Young People's Theater. *Feb. 5–9.* Young local actors perform Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison's 2006 Tony-winning musical about a fictional 1928 musical that comes to life in a Broadway fanatic's living room. This hilarious play within a play, about a showgirl who's marrying an oil tycoon, is crammed with every cliché, gag, and gimmick of Jazz Age musicals. *7 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), YPT Blackbox Theatre, 331 Metty Dr., ste. 2. Tickets $15 in advance at YoungPeoplesTheater.com/tickets & (if available) at the door. 763–TKTS.*

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. *Feb. 5 & 18.* Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on **"Revolution"** (Feb. 5) & **"Cold"** (Feb. 18)—judged by a 3-person team recruited from the

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Thursday, February 20–10am
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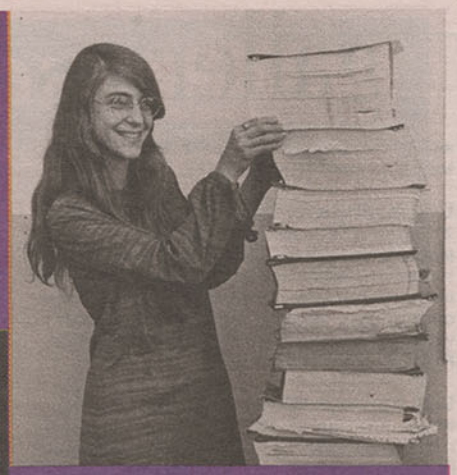

Coding to the Moon: (Ages 9+)
Margaret Hamilton and the Apollo Missions

Join us for the world premiere of Coding to the Moon, a gripping drama of the Apollo space missions. This production celebrates the life and work of mathematician and pioneering computer scientist Margaret Hamilton, whose brilliant work as a young NASA scientist broke new ground as she led the team that built the navigation systems for the Apollo missions to the moon.

Performances:
Wed, March 4–10am
Thursday, March 5–10am
Friday, March 6 10am & 12:30pm
Saturday, March 7–2pm

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audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Seating limited; arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $15 general admission in advance only at TheMoth.org beginning a week before each event. 764–5118.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed.* Performances by 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 reserved seating in advance at etix.com and general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss ***The Company We Kept,*** the 1986 memoir of Barbara Kaye, the wife of a British bookseller during World War II. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. See 3 Monday. 7:30 p.m.

Poetry Salon: One Pause Poetry. *Every Wed.* Members read and discuss poems around themes TBA. Followed by collaborative writing games and exercises. Attendees invited to read their poems. Snacks & socializing. *8–10 p.m., Argus Farm Stop greenhouse, 325 W. Liberty. $5 suggested donation. OnePausePoetry.org, 707–1284.*

★U-M Concert Band: U-M School of Music. Courtney Snyder and Richard Frey conduct this music student ensemble in selections from Renaissance composer Tielman Susato's dance music collection *Danserye,* the 1st movement of 19th-century German composer Carl Reinecke's Octet, and three 20th-century works: Grainger's *Children's March,* Schoenberg's Theme and Variations, and Shostakovich's *Folk Dances. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

★The Sierra Duo: U-M School of Music. Pianist Matthew Bengston and cellist John Haines-Eitzen, both Cornell University music professors, play music by contemporary Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra, as well as Brahms and Franck. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

Music Trivia: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're flying around the room. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free lesson. *9–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Rm. (Feb. 5), Michigan League Ballroom (Feb. 12) & Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. (Feb. 19 & 26). $5 (students & members, $4; free for those who attend the lesson). 945–8428.*

6 THURSDAY

★"Repairsday Thursday": All Hands Active. *Every Thurs.* All invited to bring broken electronics, furniture, toys, etc. Members and volunteers will perform repairs and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. *5–7 p.m., All Hands Active, 225 E. Liberty, ste. 225. Free. AllHandsActive.org*

★Ilya Kaminsky: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. *See review, p. 54.* Reading by this award-winning Ukrainian-American Jewish poet, who uses language infused with suggestions of fairy tale to explore themes of love, grief, joy, and laughter. His most recent collection, *Deaf Republic,* which the *New Yorker* calls a work of "profound imagination," uses lyric poems to trace the experiences of citizens living under martial law. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **Q&A** *(1176 Angell Hall). 5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764–6330.*

"Addams Family": Huron High School Players. *Feb. 6–9.* Huron students perform Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice's 2010 musical based on the ghoulish characters in Charles Addams' long-running single-panel cartoon series. The plot concerns the troubles that ensue when daughter Wednesday announces her intention to marry a normal boyfriend. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), HHS Ingram Theater, 2727 Fuller. Tickets $15 (students, staff, & seniors, $10) in advance at ShowTix4u.com & at the door. 994–2040.*

★"Chip Carving": Ann Arbor District Library. *Feb. 6 & 21.* All invited to make a small design on a flat wooden board. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society. Mineral collector Steve Neely presents a video about the mineral mines in Elmwood, TN. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. 7th St. Free. 665–5574.*

★Jon Morosi: Ann Arbor District Library. This MLB Network reporter, a Michigan native, discusses his career in sports media & recent trips abroad to cover games. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★Faculty Showcase Concert: U-M School of Music. A collage-style concert of works in various styles by U-M music professors TBA. *7 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

Cécile McLorin Salvant & Aaron Diehl: University Musical Society. Acclaimed Harlem-based virtuoso jazz pianist Diehl and renowned jazz vocalist McLorin Salvant perform classics & little-known gems from the Great American Songbook, as well as original improvisations and rhapsodies. Born in Miami to French and Haitian parents, McLorin Salvant sings in a deep, velvety voice and, according to the *Los Angeles Times,* can both "write a song that sounds like a long-lost standard" and "perform a classic song and make it sound utterly new." *7 & 9 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $50–$81 (students, $12–$20) in advance at Tickets.UMS.org, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Brother Sun, Sister Moon": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Ajijic (Mexico)-based musician, writer, & filmmaker **James Twyman,** a "Peace Troubadour" known for leading millions of people worldwide in synchronized meditations, presents his nationally touring one-man musical based on the life of St. Francis of Assisi. *7–9 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Tickets $25 in advance at InterfaithSpirit.org and (if available) at the door. 327–0270.*

"Latin Xpressions": U-M Dance Department. *Feb. 6–9.* U-M dance students perform a program of group & solo works by guest choreographers featuring ballet, modern flamenco, & experimental styles that explore the Latin experience. Also, U-M dance lecturer Jillian Hopper directs U-M dance majors in short interludes set to classic and popular Latin American music. Guest choreographers: DeNada Dance Theatre (UK) founder **Carlos Pons Guerra,** Northwestern University dance director **Joel Valentin-Martinez,** & Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre (Miami) artistic director **Rosie Herrera.** *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $24–$30 (students, $13) in advance at tickets.smtd.umich.edu, the Michigan League, by phone, & at the door. 764–2538.*

"Our Town": Pioneer High School Theatre Guild. *Feb. 6–9.* Pioneer students perform Thornton Wilder's perennially popular Pulitzer Prize–winning portrait of an early 20th century small town. The 3 acts examine "Daily Life," "Love and Marriage," and "Death" with graceful simplicity and deep humanity. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), PHS Little Theater, 601 W. Stadium. Tickets $10 in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 994–2120.*

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. See 3 Monday. 7:30 p.m.

Shadow League Show: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Every Thurs.* Improv by Finance Camp and other up-and-coming local troupes. *7:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $8. (989) 455–4484.*

Ben Creed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 6–8.* NYC monologist known for his high-energy, dynamic performing style and his quick-witted, wise-guy perspectives on a variety of topics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance at etix.com before 6 p.m. the night of the show; $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Dance instructors Cheryl Feit and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. *8–9:30 p.m. JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. $5. 395–4223.*

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

7 FRIDAY

★50th Winter Carnival: Chelsea American Legion Post 31. *Feb. 7–9.* Three days of cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter fun (weather permitting) at Cavanaugh Lake. Also, a **euchre tournament** (age 18 & older only; $10; prizes) on Fri. 7 p.m., **dancing** to a DJ TBA ($5) on Sat. 8–11:30 p.m., the weekend competitive **ice fishing derby** (weather permitting; adults, $10; kids, $5) on Fri. 1–8 p.m. & Sat. 7 a.m.–4 p.m., and in the upstairs hall on Sun. noon–2 p.m., a **Kids Carnival** with games (25 cents/ticket). Food available. *4 p.m.–midnight (Fri.), 7 a.m.–11:30 p.m. (Sat.), & 7 a.m.–2 p.m. (Sun.), American Legion Hall, 1700 Ridge Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475–1964.*

★"Desktop Stereo Microphone": Ann Arbor District Library Inventor Series. AADL staffers discuss the foil electret microphone—developed by Bell Lab researchers James West & Gerhard M. Sessler in 1962—which is now used in 90 percent of all microphones. Also, use this technology to make your own mini microphone. *6–8 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Danish Hygge Cozy Winter": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Feb. 7 & 14.* All invited to sit by a virtual fireplace with warm drinks, sweet treats, & mellow music and work on jigsaw puzzles or do whatever else gets you in the spirit of *hygge*, a Danish term for cozy contentment. Also, local crafter **Beth Battey** is on hand to help with crochet or knitting projects. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, challah and wine rituals, and a Yahrtzeit observance to remember loved ones. Children welcome. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. $10 (family, $25), and members, free. Preregistration required at JewishCulturalSociety.org. 975–9872.*

★**"World Famous Trivia Night": Ann Arbor District Library.** For adults. Prizes. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Lantern-Lit Ski and Snowshoe": Waterloo Recreation Area.** All invited to walk or (conditions permitting) ski or snowshoe half-mile lantern-lit loops. Fire available to warm up between laps. A few pairs of snowshoes available to borrow. *7–9 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, 17030 Bush Rd., Chelsea. Free, preregistration required (space limited); $11 recreation passport required ($16 if purchased at the gate). 475–3170.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including fiction by **Sofia Ergas Groopman** and poetry by **Isabel Neal.** *7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764–6330.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 663–2037.*

"8th Annual Creature Courtship": The Creature Conservancy. *Feb. 7, 8, & 14.* Ages 21 & over invited for wine, beer, & hors d'oeuvres, followed by a presentation with live animals on methods of seduction and reproduction in the animal kingdom. *7 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4940 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $35, preregistration required at TheCreatureConservancy.org. 929–9324.*

★**"Charles R. Eisendrath": Argus Farm Stop Liberty.** Former *TIME* correspondent and U-M professor Charles R. Eisendrath reads from this 2019 collection of essays about his personal and professional experiences and the fleeting moments that shape a person permanently. *7 p.m., Argus, 325 W. Liberty. Free. 213–2200.*

"Addams Family": Huron High School Players. See 6 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. *Feb. 7–9 & 13–16.* EMU drama professor Wallace Bridges directs EMU drama students in Gloria Bond Clunie's 1998 drama set in 1960s North Carolina. It's about a young African American girl searching for her space to shine despite what those around her say. *7 p.m. (Fri., Sat., & Feb. 13) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Sponberg Theatre, Quirk Hall, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (seniors, $14; students, $12; kids ages 6–12, $7) in advance at EMUtix.com, by phone (487–2282), & at the door. 487–1220.*

"Funky Frosty Friday": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate to recorded Korean pop music. Prizes for best costume. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $5 (youth ages 17 & under and seniors ages 60 & over, $4; skate rentals, $3). 794–6234.*

★**Madeline Miller: Literati Bookstore.** This Philadelphia-based writer reads from and discusses her 2018 bestselling novel ***Circe***, a feminist reworking of this character's story from *The Odyssey*. Miller also reads from *Circe* at U-M on Feb. 10 (see listing). *7:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

Friday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Emily Abel calls to music by the Mean Lids. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring clean shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *7:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Pay what you can ($10 suggested). 945–1343.*

"Beau Monde: An Anthology of Black Dance in America": PURe Dance Ensemble. *Feb. 7 & 8.* Gina Danene Thompson directs this local company of more than 50 dancers in her choreography, which blends modern, break dancing, jazz, swing, ballet, hip-hop, and Congolese dance. Also, performances by local Congolese dance company **Bichini Bia Congo**, Detroit breakdancing crew **Hardcore Detroit,** and others. This year's show is interactive and begins in the Riverside Arts Center gallery. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2:30 p.m. (Sat.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $8) in advance at EventBrite.com & at the door. (313) 828–0945.*

"Our Town": Pioneer High School Theatre Guild. See 6 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Ben Creed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** Feb. 7 & 21. All invited to peer through the observatory and rooftop telescopes and to view planetarium shows. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *8–10 p.m., 5th-fl. rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter from the Diag). Free. 764–3440.*

"Curling Fest 2020": Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. All invited to join or bring their own 4-player team for a 1-hour session of curling instruction followed by a short informal scrimmage. This team sport is nicknamed "the roaring game" for the rumbling sound the 44-lb. granite stone makes as it slides across the ice. Also, all-you-can-eat pizza, salad, and pop buffet. Spectators welcome. *8 p.m.–midnight, Arctic Coliseum, 501 Coliseum Dr., Chelsea. Tickets $25 per person (buffet only, $15) in advance at a2tix.com. 475–1145.*

★**"Anniversaries": U-M Symphony Band.** Michael Haithcock conducts this ensemble of music majors in a program highlighted by a performance of U-M music lecturer Roshanne Etezady's *Storm Warning* with the **Akropolis Reed Quintet**, an ensemble of U-M alumni. Also, Beethoven's Octet and Steven Bryant's Concerto for Wind Ensemble. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Stone Sound Collective: U-M Center for World Performance Studies.** Percussionist Mark Stone leads this new Detroit ensemble in his eclectic compositions inspired by jazz, classical Indian, African, and classical European music. The instrumentation combines saxophone and cello with various African and Indian percussion instruments. *8 p.m., East Quad Keene Theater, 701 East University. Free. 936–2777.*

Claudia Schmidt: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). A longtime local favorite with both folk and jazz audiences, Schmidt is a Traverse City vocalist known for her strikingly luminous, warmly ingratiating voice. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Tickets $15 in advance at EventBrite.com & at the door. 665–8558.*

"Latin Xpressions": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. See 3 Monday. 8 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Proof": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *Feb. 7–16, every Fri.-Sun.* Alex Duncan directs local actors in David Auburn's 2000 Pulitzer-winning drama about love and reconciliation. The play follows a woman, her sister, and an unexpected suitor who appears after their mathematician father's death. Stars Hannah Stoloff, Sara Long, Emmett Mix, and Daniel Dye. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), A2CT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Tickets $16.50 in advance at a2ct.org and, if available, at the door. 971–2228.*

"Pointless Improv with This Is a Quiz": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28.* Performance by this resident improv group. Followed by the League of Pointless Improvisers performing "water form," a long-form style of improv developed by Pointless. Show preceded by a guest improv troupe TBA. *8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15 (8 p.m.) & $12 (10 p.m.) in advance at PointlessBrew.com & at the door. (989) 455–4484.*

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Fri.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free **beginners lesson**. *9 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. $5 (students & AACTMAD members, $4). (847) 757–0942.*

8 SATURDAY

Ice Fishing Derby: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All invited to catch northern pike, bluegill, and crappie in this annual fishing derby. Prizes. Bring your own bait & equipment. No alcohol, ATVs, or snowmobiles. Weather permitting. *7 a.m.–5 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. $10 (ages 12 & under, $5) in advance at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org; $15 (kids, $10) day of the event. pahlj@washtenaw.org; 449–4337, ext. 201.*

★**"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department.** *Feb. 8, 15, & 22.* Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences. *Feb. 8:* U-M physics professor Dragan Huterer on **"The Universe Caught Speeding: Dark Energy, Two Decades After."** *Feb. 15:* U-M environmental science professor Brian Arbic on **"Ocean Modeling: Big Computers, Big Science."** *Feb. 22:* U-M physics professor Sharon C. Glotzer on **"The Truth About Entropy."** *10:30 a.m., 170 & 182 Weiser, 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

★**Ice Carving Festival: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Area college ice carving

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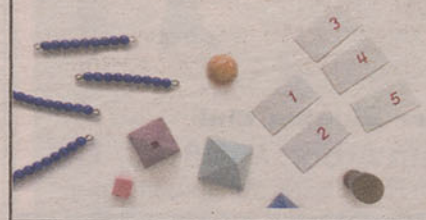

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A study in contrasts

JOHN KRAMER

Before Mustard's Retreat formed as a trio in Ann Arbor in 1975, folk musician David Tamulevich had been playing informally in two duos, one with vocalist Libby Glover and one with singer and multi-instrumentalist Michael Hough. When Glover moved away after a couple of years, Tamulevich and Hough retained the name and continued as a duo for the next four decades, through thousands of shows and a baker's dozen recordings. Glover joined them occasionally on her return visits to Michigan. Then Glover moved back to the area in 2016 and the trio regrouped, began performing, and even recorded an album. Last year Hough retired to Arizona in order to care for his girlfriend, who was diagnosed with cancer (see Up Front, p. 11). Tamulevich and Glover have carried on, keeping the Mustard's Retreat name and continuing to play shows.

Most successful musical duos are a study in contrasts: two people with complementary rather than identical skills, who also find ways to merge those contrasts into a unified whole. Tamulevich and Hough honed that formula to perfection throughout Mustard's Retreat's long run, and Glover and Tamulevich are continuing the same approach in MR 2.0.

Tamulevich and Hough had distinct, dissimilar voices, yet one of their hallmarks was tight harmony singing, Tamulevich's rounded tenor blending smoothly with Hough's more pointed baritone. Glover and Tamulevich's voices, not surprisingly, differ by nature, yet also create a singular meld. Glover takes the high harmonies above Tamulevich, a departure from the previous MR sound in which Hough usually sang low harmonies. The first MR created visual as well as sonic variety with an ever-varying combination of instruments, among them Tamulevich's guitar, mandolin and harmonica, and Hough's guitar, bass and percussion. Glover brings a vibrant kinetic component. While she sings, at times with closed eyes, or with blissful smiles, she sways, dances in place, and embellishes the music with graceful hand gestures.

And then there's their material, now primarily Tamulevich's large repertoire of original songs, some of them co-written with Hough. These are life-affirming, socially conscious, and well-loved—and sometimes fully memorized—by MR's many fans. But the new MR includes new songs as well as ones Tamulevich and Glover used to sing together before they were joined by Hough. "In looking forward we are also looking back to our time as a duo," says Tamulevich. On their new recording they sing, "Make your own luck if you're tired and beat/Step up to the plate. Swing for the seats. Make your own luck and luck will find you." MR shows no sign of being tired and beat and—to mix two sports metaphors—they've successfully passed the baton and continue to step up to the plate and swing for the seats.

Mustard's Retreat plays the Ark at 8 p.m. on February 8, their first time there as the duo of Tamulevich and Glover.

—*Sandor Slomovits*

teams compete using flamethrowers, chainsaws, and other tools to shape large blocks of ice. Refreshments. *Noon, County Farm Park, 2230 Platt. Free. 971–6337.*

★**U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Illinois-Chicago & Northern Illinois.** This month's schedule also includes meets vs. **Oklahoma** (Feb. 15, 1 p.m.) and **Minnesota** (Feb. 29, 1 p.m.). *1 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

U-M Men's Lacrosse vs. Cleveland State. Season opener. This month's schedule also includes games vs. **Canisius** (Feb. 18, time TBA), **Merrimack** (Feb. 22, time TBA), & **St. John's** (Feb. 29, 3 p.m.). *1 p.m., U-M Lacrosse Stadium, 2500 S. State. $6 in advance at mGOblue.com/tickets & at the gate. 764–0247.*

★**"Diddley Bow Guitar Building": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make this one-string guitar common to the American South & West Africa. *1–5 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"27th Annual Winter Walkabout": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.** All invited for snacks, warm drinks, and socializing, followed at 2 p.m. by a drive 1 mile south for a leisurely 90-minute walk through the 424-acre LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve. No pets. Dress for the weather. *1:15–3:30 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect at Cherry Hill, Superior Twp. Free. SMLCland.org, 484–6565.*

Victorian Valentine Tea: Kempf House Museum. *Feb. 8 & 9.* An elegant traditional tea with a menu that includes both sweets and savories. With romantic piano music played on the Kempf family's 1877 Steinway. Period attire encouraged. This popular annual fundraiser usually sells out. *1:30 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. $30 (members, $25), cash/check only; preregistration required by Feb. 3. 994–4898.*

★**"Queer & Trans Artists of Color": U-M School of Art & Design.** Talks by University of California art professor micha cárdenas and Detroit-based multimedia artist Darryl DeAngelo Terrell. Followed by a reading from Philadelphia activist Nia King's book of interviews, *Queer & Trans Artists of Color: vol. two. 2–4 p.m., Stamps Gallery, 201 S. Division. Free, preregistration required at bit.ly/2s8PNtc. 936–0671.*

★**"Exploration of Music through Visual Arts": Ann Arbor District Library.** Members of U-M student-run **Michigan Pops Orchestra** present a lecture-demo on the form, texture, shape, and color of music. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. See 3 Monday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Afternoon Waltz Session: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. An afternoon of waltzes with music TBA. *3–4:30 p.m. Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. Pay what you can ($5 suggested). 945–1343*

"Joy in Diversity: Spiritual Unity & Grace Through Honoring Our First Nation": First United Methodist Global Music Weekend. Dinner of Native American cuisine catered by Shalifoe Native Foods, followed at 7:30 p.m. by a concert with performances by **Spirits Rising,** the singer-songwriter duo of Powhatan Alice Sun & Cherokee Joe Reilly, and the **All Nations Dancers,** an Anishinaabe dance ensemble led by Ray Cadotte. Also, a display of Native American paintings, artwork, & crafts. *6 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. $15 (students, $8; family, $40; ages 4 & under, free). 662–4536.*

"Valentines Ballroom Dance Night": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation. Ballroom dancing to recorded music in a variety of genres. No partner necessary. The program begins with a beginner swing dance lesson led by area dance instructor Sue Bareis. *7 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth Rd. $5 at the door only. 822–2120.*

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. See 7 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Addams Family": Huron High School Players. See 6 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Dance Manchester: Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization. Mardi Gras dance with live music by **Creole du Nord**, a popular Manchester quartet that plays traditional Creole & Cajun music. *7:30 p.m., Blacksmith Shop, 324 E. Main, Manchester. $10 suggested donation. 223–6876.*

2nd Saturday Traditional & Techno Contra Dance Party: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Asheville (NC) caller Emily Abel leads contras to traditional music by the Illinois-based Mean Lids (7:30–9:30 p.m.) and techno music by Dr. Shadow (10 p.m.–midnight). No experience or partner needed. Wear loose fitting clothing and flat non-slip shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. Also, Abel offers a free introduction to calling contras (11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.) and the Mean Lids offers a free introduction to playing music for contras (1–2:30 p.m.). *7:30–midnight, Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Pay what you can ($10 suggested). 945–1343.*

★**"U-M Jazz Festival": U-M School of Music.** Ellen Rowe directs the U-M Jazz Ensemble in jazz compositions TBA by the celebrated postwar bebop trumpeter Clifford Brown. With 4 guest musicians: Count Basie Orchestra trumpeter Scotty Barnhart, pianist Andy Milne, bassist Ralph Armstrong, and drummer Sean Dobbins. Also, a performance by the **U-M Jazz Lab Ensemble** (4:10 p.m.) with guest bassist Paul Keller and reeds player (and CMU jazz studies professor) Rob Smith, and a panel discussion on **"Clifford Brown: The Man and Music"** (1:10 p.m.), with Rob Smith, Scotty Barnhart, and U-M music professor Ed Sarath. *7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium (jazz lab and discussion, U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin). Free. 615–3204.*

Gemini: Michigan Friends Center Benefit. The popular Ann Arbor acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits performs **"From Broadway, With Love,"** a program of songs from popular musicals such as "Edelweiss" *(The Sound of Music)*, and "Try to Remember" *(The Fantasticks). 7:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meeting House, 1420 Hill St. Pay what you can (adults, $15; family, $25 suggested donation). 475–1892.*

★**"Swaranjali": Michigan Sahana.** This U-M student group presents a night of various types of Indian classical music and dance. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom, 530 S. State. Free. MichiganSahana.com*

"Our Town": Pioneer High School Theatre Guild. See 6 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Ben Creed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

Katie Geddes: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704. This popular local folk singer performs folk, country-folk, and gospel tunes, along with songs by such contemporary songwriters as John Prine, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Michael Nesmith, and Lennon & McCartney. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Tickets $8 (2 for $15). 327–0270.*

The Allman Betts Band: The Ark. Blues and blues-rock band fronted by singer-songwriter-guitarists Devon Allman and Duane Betts, sons of Southern blues-rock icons Gregg Allman and Dickey Betts. Openers: **JD Simo,** a Chicago-bred, Nashville-based psychedelic blues rock singer-songwriter, and **Jackson Stokes,** a blues singer-songwriter from St. Louis. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $35–$75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, TheArk.org, & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.*

"Latin Xpressions": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Proof": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Valentine's Ragtime Trot": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dances that were popular from 1900 to the 1920s, with live music by the **Huron Valley Serenaders.** Period attire encouraged. Preceded at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. *8–11 p.m., Zal Gaz Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $30, preregistration requested at VintagedDance.com/ragtime.htm. 769–0041.*

"Pointless Improv Shows": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Feb. 8, 15, 22, & 29.* Comedic improv by experienced local performers, including the resident **League of Pointless Improvisers.** *8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15 (8 p.m.) & $12 (10 p.m.). (989) 455–4484.*

9 SUNDAY

★**"On Convergence of Spirituality and Science": First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion.** All invited to join a discussion led by Baptist minister and writer Ken Whitt, a continuation of a conversation started in Jan. *11 a.m.–12:15 p.m., FUMC Calkins Hall, 120 S. State. Free. 662–4536.*

★**"Travels through Israel": First Congregational Church Contemporary Issues Committee.** Talk by Rachel Dudley, FCC Director of Children's Ministry. *11:10 a.m., FCC Mayflower rm., 608 E. William. Free. 662–1679.*

★**"Button Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Feb. 9 & 18.* All invited to make button pins. Materials provided or bring your own image (1.25–2.25 inches) to use. On Feb. 9 only, die cutting machine available to cut out shapes. *12:30–2 p.m. (Feb. 9) & 4:30–6 p.m. (Feb. 18), AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Make Valentine Cards": Kerrytown Market & Shops.** All ages invited to make Valentine cards and decorations. Materials and guidance provided. *1–3 p.m., Hollanders lower level, Kerrytown. Free. contact@kerrytown.com*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 663–0262.*

★**"Reflections: An Ordinary Day": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of Inuit art, including mid-century to contemporary prints, drawings, and sculptures that portray daily life in the Arctic. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Piano Party!": King's Keyboard House.** Pianists of all levels invited to play 1–2 pieces at this open mic. *2–4 p.m., King's Keyboard, 2363 E. Stadium. Free, preregistration requested. 663–3381.*

"Paul Keller & Friends": Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz bassist Keller is joined by vocalist **Sarah D'Angelo**, saxophonist **Steve Wood**, and pianist **Adam Mosley** to perform traditional jazz standards and little-known gems from the Great American Songbook. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

"Latin Xpressions": U-M Dance Department. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"White Feminist": University Musical Society. See 3 Monday. 2 & 6 p.m.

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Proof": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Our Town": Pioneer High School Theatre Guild. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Addams Family": Huron High School Players. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Curating Mobile Memories: UMMA.** Museum curator of photography Jennifer M. Freiss discusses 250 newly acquired photos from the recent exhibit of found photography and the significance of a snapshot in the digital age. *3 p.m., UMMA ArtGym, 525 S. State. Free, preregistration required at umma.umich.edu. 765–0395.*

Contact Improv. *Feb. 9 & 23.* All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between 2 or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. *3–5 p.m., location TBA at Facebook.com/a2detroit.ci. Pay what you can ($5–$15 suggested). (248) 505–4674, (313) 585–2598.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Ohio State. This month's schedule also includes a meet vs. **New Hampshire** (Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.). *4 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets $6–$8 at mGOblue.com/tickets & at the door. 764–0247.*

"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam." *Feb. 9 & 23.* Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. The 2nd Sunday of each month features a focus song, followed by jamming. The 4th Sunday features an open mic for solo, duo, and trio performers, followed by jamming. Also, a **session for songwriters** (Feb. 16, Great Oak Cohousing common area, 500 Little Lake Dr.) to try out new work and get feedback. *7–9 p.m., U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. $5 for participants, spectators free. Preregistration required at Meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 973–7791.*

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Feb 10 — **LOOK 101: Seeing Art in an Instagram World**
The art of **Valery Jung Estabrook** with the artist and the curator, **Amanda Krugliak**, 12-1pm

Feb 12 — **Valery Jung Estabrook** in conversation with curator **Amanda Krugliak** & Opening Reception, 5:30-7pm

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★Valentina Igoshina: U-M School of Music. This prize-winning Russian pianist, who has played with many of the world's major symphony orchestras, performs a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society Benefit Concert. Members of this accomplished local town-and-gown company perform popular standards and lesser-known gems from the Gilbert and Sullivan canon. *7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission; donations accepted. umgass@umich.edu*

"8 Pointless Minutes: A Long Form Improv Jam": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. All invited to form groups to perform an 8-minute improv sketch. No experience necessary. Spectators welcome. *7:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Pay what you can. (989) 455–4484.*

10 MONDAY

★Madeline Miller: U-M Classics Department. This Philadelphia-based fiction writer reads from her 2018 bestselling novel ***Circe*** (see 7 Friday Literati listing). Followed by discussion. *4–6 p.m., Hatcher Grad Library gallery (enter from the Diag). Free. 764–0360.*

★"Triumphs and Dilemmas": Ann Arbor Fiber-arts Guild. All invited to join group discussions, organized by fiber technique. The program begins with socializing and displays of members' work. *6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. AnnArborFiberArts@gmail.com*

★"Sewing Lab": Ann Arbor District Library. *Feb. 10 & 24.* All invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Bring your own sewing machine, if you wish. No experience necessary. Also, local crafter Amber Adams-Fall shows **how to hem** (Feb. 10) and **make a flat-felled seam** (Feb. 24). *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table. Talk by club member Bill Cottrell. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Administrative Bldg. rm. 2B45, 5305 Elliott Dr. Free. (517) 750–2741.*

★"Local Writers Live": Ann Arbor District Library. Brief readings by 5 local writers from their published books, followed by discussion. Books are Bethany Grey's ***All That We Encounter***, Johnny Thompson's ***Breaking Through***, Miranda Kruse's ***To Be Loved***, Loretta J. Poisson's ***A Woven Truth***, and Coach Roscoe Cummings' ***God Spoke to Me*** and ***Listen to Him.*** Signings. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★Dan Murphy: Literati Bookstore. This ESPN investigative reporter discusses his new book *Start by Believing: Larry Nassar's Crimes, the Institutions that Enabled Him, and the Brave Women Who Stopped a Monster. 7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★Scandinavian Music Jam. Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Great Oak Cohousing common area, 500 Little Lake Dr. Free. (908) 721–2599.*

11 TUESDAY

★"Thyme to Talk About Garden Cleanup!": Good Thyme Garden Club. Talk about garden maintenance and its effect on insects by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission naturalist Shawn Severance. *10 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 730–2947.*

★"Bookbinding: Long Stitch": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to learn this simple method of bookbinding. No experience required. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Pollinator Preservation Strategies for the Home Garden: Native Plants and Their Unique Relationships with Beneficial Insects.": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers. Talk by Detroit-based master gardener Cheryl English. *6:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free, metered parking. A2B2club@gmail.com*

★"Washer Necklaces": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make a decorative pendant using metal washers, paint, beads, and more. Led by local crafter Dawn Henry. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 327–4200.*

★"The 2020 Census: Count Every Person. Once. In the Right Place": Ann Arbor League of Women Voters/Ann Arbor District Library. A local LWV member discusses what the 2020 Census is and why it matters. *7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

"Bluegrass Jam Circle": Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Feb. 11 & 25.* All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome, too. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. $5. a2BluGrass.com, 794–6250.*

★"The Vampire Tapestry": Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. Ages 21 & over invited to discuss Suzy McKee Charnas's 1980 novel about the moral struggles of a respected anthropology professor who is also a vampire. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★"Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris. Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. Food & drinks available. *7–10 p.m., Wolverine State Brewing Co., 2019 W. Stadium. Free. (908) 721–2599.*

★Christopher Fort: Literati Bookstore. This translator reads from and discusses ***Night and Day,*** his 2019 translation of Uzbek poet Abdulhamid Sulaymon o'g'li Cho'lpon's unfinished work about a young Uzbek girl condemned to marry a sexual glutton. The story raises questions about Russian colonialism. Signing. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★"How Emotions are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain": Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss renowned psychologist Lisa Barrett's 2017 book. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★Hub New Music & Hannah Lash: U-M School of Music. Boston-based quartet **Hub New Music**, comprised of flute, clarinet, violin, and cello, is joined by composer-harpist Lash for the premiere of her multi-movement work *The Nature of Breaking*. Also, Takuma Itoh's *Asynchronicity* and Kati Agócs' *Rogue Emoji. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

12 WEDNESDAY

"Trump's Trade Wars: Where Do We Stand?": Ann Arbor City Club Lunch and Learn. Talk by U-M economics and public policy professor Alan Deardorff. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $30 (members, $25); includes lunch, preregistration required by Feb. 5. AnnArborCityClub.org; 662–3279, ext. 1.*

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★"Tracking the Motion Inside Molecules with X-Ray Lasers": U-M Physics Department Ford Motor Company Distinguished Lecture. Talk by Stanford physics professor Philip H. Bucksbaum. *4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 764–4437.*

★"Programs of the Washtenaw County Conservation District": Wild Ones. Talk by Conservation District manager Megan DeLeeuw. *6:45–8:15 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 604–4674.*

"Valentine's Chocolates & Cocktails": Zingerman's Delicatessen. The Bar owner Eric Farrell makes cocktails and Zingerman's staffers offer sweet taste samples. Geared towards groups of 2, ages 21 & up. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Greyline, 100 N. Ashley. $45, preregistration required. 663–3400.*

★"A History of American Tap Dance: Origins and Artistry of a True American Art Form": Ann Arbor District Library. Lecture-demo with video clips and a demonstration by Swing City Dance instructor and dance historian Susan Filipiak. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short fiction. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. *7–8:45 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★"Drummunity!" Local drummer & drum teacher Lori Fithian leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★"Fencing": Pittsfield Union Grange. Talk by fencing instructor David Hoornstra and others from the Ann Arbor Sword Club, a local fencing school. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a **potluck** (bring a dish to pass). *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 274–0773.*

★History Readers Book Club: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion, led by historian Judith Elkin, of Howard Markel's 2017 book ***The Kelloggs: The Battling Brothers of Battle Creek***. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 484–3613.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★Jerry Wong: EMU Music Department. This Melbourne Conservatory (Australia) piano professor performs Bach's Andante in C major & Chaconne in D minor, Beethoven's Sonata in E-flat major, and Bernstein's Three Etudes and *New Pictures at an Exhibition. 8–10 p.m., EMU Alexander Music Bldg., rm. 110, 000 E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1008.*

13 THURSDAY

"Land Preservation: Ann Arbor Greenbelt": Ann Arbor Farm & Garden. Greenbelt manager Remy

films

Ann Arbor District Library. FREE. 327–4200. Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 10: **"The 57th Ann Arbor Film Festival Tour."** Compilation of some of the best independent and experimental films from the 2019 edition of this internationally renowned festival.

Feb. 11: **"Freedom Riders"** (Stanley Nelson Jr., 2010). Documentary about the black and white civil rights activists who risked their lives in the summer of 1961 journeying together on buses and trains throughout the South, deliberately violating Jim Crow laws.

Bløm Meadworks. FREE. Food & drink for sale. 548–9729. 100 S. Fourth Ave. 4–6 p.m.

Feb. 2: **"Robin Hood: Men in Tights"** (Mel Brooks, 1993). Parody of the legend of Sherwood Forest.

Feb. 9: **"Moulin Rouge"** (Baz Luhrmann, 2001). Splashy romantic musical, set in the turn-of-the-century Parisian nightclub, that incorporates 70s & 80s pop songs.

Feb. 16: **"Amélie"** (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). Charming tale of a Parisian waitress determined to improve the lives of those around her, including a despotic grocer, a kindly stripper, and a hypochondriacal tobacconist.

Feb. 23: **"West Side Story"** (Robert Wise & Jerome Robbins, 1961). Classic adaptation of Leonard Bernstein's Romeo-and-Juliet musical set in 1950s New York City.

Blue LLama Jazz Club. $10. 372–3200, preregistration required. 314 S. Main. 9 p.m.

Feb. 6: **"Bride +1"** (Christina Morales Hemenway, 2019). Rom-com short starring local filmmaker Hemenway as a 39-year-old never-married Latina who sends out "save the date" cards to lure in prospective grooms.

Fathom Events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine). Tickets $12.50–$16 (except as noted) in advance at FathomEvents.com/Events & at the door. Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline), & Michigan Theater (603 E. Liberty), different times.

Feb. 1 & 5: **"Porgy and Bess."** Live broadcast (Feb. 1) & rebroadcast (Feb. 5) of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Gershwin's classic 1935 opera about Porgy, a black street beggar in Charleston, who attempts to liberate sweet Bess from addiction and an abusive lover. With bass-baritone Eric Owens and soprano Angel Blue. *Note:* Michigan Theater & Ann Arbor 20 on Sat. only. Tickets $22–$24. 12:55 p.m. (Sat.) and 1 & 6:30 p.m. (Wed.)

Feb. 9 & 12: **"Love Story"** (Arthur Hiller, 1970). Adaptation of Erich Segal's romantic novel. *Note:* Ann Arbor 20 only. 1 p.m. (Sun.) & 6 p.m. (Wed.)

Feb. 18: **"Red Sea Miracle"** (Timothy Mahoney, 2020). Part 1 of a dramatic Egypt-oriented retelling of the biblical Exodus. *Note:* Quality 16 & Ann Arbor 20 only. 7 p.m.

Feb. 20: **"Cyrano De Bergerac."** Live broadcast of the National Theatre (London) production of Jamie Lloyd's adaption of Edmond Rostand's enduring 1897 tragicomedy about a gallant but ugly swashbuckler who's afraid to declare his feelings to his true love. *Note:* Quality 16 & Ann Arbor 20 only. 7 p.m.

Feb. 23: **"Swan Lake."** Live broadcast of the **Bolshoi Ballet** (Moscow) production of Tchaikovsky's transcendent ballet with classic choreography by Yuri Grigorovich. *Note:* Quality 16, Emagine, & Ann Arbor 20 only. 12:55 p.m.

Feb. 23: **"The Color Purple"** (Steven Spielberg, 1985). Adaptation of Alice Walker's novel about the life of a poor black woman. *Note:* Ann Arbor 20 only. 1 & 5 p.m.

Feb. 24 & 25: **"Free Burma Rangers"** (Chris Sinclair & Brent Gudgel, 2019). Documentary about the 20-year journey of a missionary family in war-torn Burma. *Note:* Quality 16 (Mon.) and Ann Arbor 20 & Emagine (Mon. & Tues). 7 p.m.

Feb. 29: **"Agrippina."** Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of David McVicar's modern updating of Handel's popular oddball 1709 satirical comic opera about power-hungry Romans. Stars mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. Italian, supertitles. Tickets $16–$22. 12:55 p.m.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley Dr., 7 p.m.

Feb. 28: **"The Healer"** (Paco Arango, 2017). Drama about a young man with remarkable healing powers who befriends a teenager with cancer.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually 2–3 times a day. *Occasional MTF screenings are listed under Fathom Events.* For complete, updated schedules, see MichTheater.org, AnnArborObserver.com, or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10.50 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8.50; MTF members, $8; weekdays before 6 p.m., $7) in advance at MichTheater.org & at the door. Times: (unless otherwise noted) TBA.

Feb. 3: **"Pretty Strong"** (Colette McInerney, Julie Ellison, & Leslie Hittmeier, 2020). Documentary about women rock-climbers. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 4: **"Stranger Than Paradise"** (Jim Jarmusch, 1984). Two NYC layabouts go on an unpredictable adventure. 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 5: **"General Magic"** (Sarah Kerruish & Matt Maude, 2019). Documentary about the revolutionary innovations that came out of this secretive Silicon Valley software & electronics company. Post-film discussion with guests TBA. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 6: **"Harakiri"** (Masaki Kobayashi, 1962). Classic samurai film about an abandoned warrior seeking to commit ritual suicide. Japanese, subtitles. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Japanese Studies. 7:30 p.m.

Opens Feb. 7: **"Three Christs"** (Jon Avnet, 2020). Drama about a MI psychiatrist treating 3 paranoid schizophrenic patients who think they are Jesus Christ.

Feb. 7: **"Your Name"** (Makoto Shinkai, 2017). Animated romantic fantasy. Japanese, subtitles. 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 9: **"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"** (Chris Columbus, 2001). Adaptation of J.K. Rowling's popular fantasy novel. Kids ages 12 & under, free.

Feb. 10: **"Agave: The Spirit of a Nation"** (Matthew Riggieri & Nick Kovacic, 2018). Documentary about the social impact of this tropical plant. Tequila & mezcal tastings. 7:30 p.m.

Feb 11: **"Down by Law"** (Jim Jarmusch, 1986). Three losers meet in jail and make a break for it. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 12: **"bias"** (Robin Hauser, 2018). Documentary exploring unconscious bias and how it relates to gender and race. Post-film Q&A with Greenhills School diversity director Nadine Hall. Ages 18 & under, free. 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 13: **"The Downfall of Osen"** (Kenji Mizoguchi, 1935). Silent film about a servant girl who must fend for herself and the boy she loves. Accompanied by live traditional *benshi* narration, in Japanese, by a master Japanese narrator. Subtitles. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Japanese Studies. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 14: **"Titanic"** (James Cameron, 1997). Romantic thriller about the fateful maiden voyage of the heralded ocean liner that helped usher in the 20th-century. MTF members, free. 7 p.m.

Feb. 14: **"Princess Mononoke"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1997). Ecologicaly minded, densely plotted animated epic, loosely based on Japanese mythology, about Iron Age man vs. nature. Mature audiences. Japanese, subtitles. 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 16: **"Harriet"** (Kasi Lemmons, 2019). Biopic about the heroic abolitionist Harriet Tubman. 3 p.m.

Feb. 17: **"Shusenjo: The Main Battleground of the Comfort Women Issue"** (Miki Dezaki, 2019). Documentary exploring the controversy surrounding the issue of the women & girls forced into sex slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army before and during WWII. Post-film director Q&A. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 18: **"Gimme Danger"** (Jim Jarmusch, 2016). Documentary about the rock band the Stooges, with an emphasis on its Ann Arbor origins. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 20: **"Tokyo Drifter"** (Seijun Suzuki, 1966). Jazzy gangster film about a reformed killer called back to Tokyo to battle a rival gang. Japanese, subtitles. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Japanese Studies. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 21 & 23: **"Varda by Agnès"** (Agnès Varda, 2019). Documentary about the pioneering French film director.

Feb. 21 & 24: **"Ága"** (Milko Lazarov, 2019). An elder's life nears its end in the icy north.

Feb. 21: **"Promare"** (Hiroyuki Imaishi, 2019). Anime adventure about an epic battle between humans and flame-wielding mutants. Japanese, subtitles. 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 23: **"Giselle."** Live broadcast of the **Bolshoi Ballet** production of Adolphe Adam's classic 1841 ballet, with choreography by Alexei Ratmansky. When a gentle peasant girl dies of a broken heart after her aristocratic lover betrays her, she returns as a vengeful spirit bent on making unfaithful men dance until death. 7 p.m.

Feb. 24: **"VHYes"** (Jack Henry Robbins, 2020). Retro comedy—shot on VHS—about a young boy who mistakenly records over his parents' wedding tape. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 25: **"Only Lovers Left Alive"** (Jim Jarmusch, 2013). Romantic vampire drama about a vampire musician whose centuries-old love affair is tested by the arrival of his lover's impulsive younger sister. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 26: **"Direct from Sundance 2020."** Premiere of a film TBA. $15. 8 p.m.

Feb. 27: **"Lady Snowblood"** (Toshiya Fujita, 1973). Classic action film about a woman who sets out to avenge her parents after they are killed by a gang of brutal criminals. Japanese, subtitles. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Japanese Studies. 7:30 p.m.

Opens Feb. 28: **"Seberg"** (Benedict Andrews, 2019). Thriller based on events in the life of French New Wave darling Jean Seberg.

Feb. 28: **"Fly Fishing Film Tour 2020."** An anthology of cutting-edge films aimed at outdoor enthusiasts. $18. 7 p.m.

Feb. 28: **"Ghost in the Shell"** (Mamoru Oshii, 1995). Animated sci-fi, based on the Masamune Shirow manga, about a public security agency's hunt for a mysterious hacker. 9:30 p.m.

State Theatre. For complete, updated schedules, see StateTheatreA2.org, AnnArborObserver.com, or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10.50 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8.50; MTF members, $8; weekdays before 6 p.m., $7). Times (unless otherwise noted): TBA.

Opens Feb. 14: **"Downhill"** (Nat Faxon & Jim Rash, 2020). A husband and wife reevaluate their lives after escaping an avalanche.

Opens Feb. 21: **"Olympic Dreams"** Romantic drama set in the Olympic village. (Jeremy Teicher, 2020).

Opens Feb. 28: **"Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and The Band"** (Daniel Roher, 2020).

U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. FREE. 763–9047. Rackham Amphitheatre. 4 p.m.

Feb. 4: **"From Cairo to the Cloud: The World of the Cairo Geniza"** (Michelle Paymar, 2018). Documentary about these ancient manuscripts, which document a thousand years of Jewish life, and their digitization.

U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies. FREE. Korean, subtitles. 764–1825. Michigan Theater. 1 p.m.

Feb. 1: **"Kim-Gun"** (Kang Sang-woo, 2019). Documentary about the search to uncover the identity of an unknown soldier captured in a photograph of the 1980 pro-democracy Gwangju Uprising in South Korea.

Feb. 8: **"Dark Figure of Crime"** (Kim Tae-kyun, 2018). Psychological thriller about a detective and a killer who has confessed to multiple murders.

Feb. 15: **"Goodbye My Love, North Korea"** (Kim Soyoung, 2019). Documentary about 8 young North Koreans who became political exiles in Eurasia after the Korean war.

Feb. 22: **"The Battle of Jangsari"** (Kwak Kyung-taek, 2019). Action-war film that follows the true story of student soldiers deployed during the Korean War.

Feb. 29: **"Hotel by the River"** (Hong Sangsoo, 2019). Black-and-white drama about an aging poet saying his final goodbyes to his 2 bickering sons.

Long discusses this city program to protect outcounty farmland and open & natural spaces from development. *12:30–2 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. $10, preregistration required at bit.ly/aagreenbelt before Feb. 11, 5 p.m. 635–2247.*

Game Night: Vault of Midnight. All invited to play board games. "Game guru" on hand to answer questions. *6–9 p.m., Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. $5. 998–1413.*

★**"Environmental Justice Summit 2020": U-M School for Environment & Sustainability.** Panel discussion on challenges and opportunities for environmental justice with Texas Southern University school of public affairs dean **Robert Bullard,** New Consensus policy director **Rhiana Gunn Wright,** EPA policy advisor **Charles Lee,** and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy environmental justice public advocate **Regina Strong.** Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition coordinator Michelle Martinez moderates. *6–7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free, preregistration required at EventBrite.com. 764–6453.*

★**"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport. Free. 646–7405.*

★**Open Mic & Share: Bookbound.** All invited to read their own poetry, or a favorite poem by another writer, on the theme of **"in times like these."** Also, readings by local poets TBA. *7 p.m., Bookbound, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369–4345.*

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. See 7 Friday. 7 p.m.

Tina Giori: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 13–15.* A former schoolteacher, this NYC comic is known for her rapid-fire, sharp-witted observational humor directed at the state of American culture. "Achieving what often eludes many less adept comediennes, her set was wickedly sarcastic and edgy without coming across as negative, angry, or just plain mean," says the *Long Island Voice. 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $12 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance at etix.com before 6 p.m. the night of the show; $14 (Thurs.) & $18 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080*

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

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Courtney McClellan, *Moot (University of Michigan) 9* (detail), 2019, digital print. © Courtney McClellan. Courtesy the artist

14 FRIDAY (VALENTINE'S DAY)

"The Politics of Carbon": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Talk by U-M political science professor Barry Rabe. Second in a series of 5 monthly lectures exploring the impact of climate change on our lives and the planet. *10–11:30 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $60 (members, $35) for 5-lecture series; memberships are $25 a year. $10 per lecture for members. 998–9351.*

★**U-M Clements Library Tour.** *Feb. 14 & 28.* Docents give a behind-the-scenes look at the historic Clements building and collections. Also, on Feb. 14 (10 a.m.–4 pm.), **"Love Letters & Romance in the Archives,"** a display of valentines, letters, courtship guides, and other materials showing how Americans expressed love in the past. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Clements, 909 South University. Free, preregistration requested at Clements.umich.edu. 764–2347.*

★**"Cultural Property and the Question of Repatriation": U-M College of Literature, Science & the Arts Inaugural Lecture.** U-M history of art professor Daniel Herwitz reads from his essay on the controversial topic of returning European & American museum objects to their sites of origin. *4–6 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 763–2351.*

★**"Love Is Here to Stay!" Northside Community Church.** All invited to this multi-genre open mic. Drum set, piano, and organ available to use, if you like. Also, a local pianist TBA available to accompany or improvise with you. *5:30–6:30 p.m., NCC, 929 Barton. Free. 662–6351.*

"Owl Do I Love Thee": Leslie Science & Nature Center. Couples ages 18 & up invited to learn about the mating habits of the LSNC raptors and go on a candle-lit walk to read romantic poems posted at various points on the trail. Also, board games and art projects. Beverages and desserts provided. *7–9 p.m., Cobblestone Farms, 2781 Packard. $30 (members, $25) per couple. Preregistration required by Feb. 12 at LesliesNC.org or 997–1553.*

★**"Spring Awakening": U-M Basement Arts.** *Feb. 14 & 15.* U-M students perform Frank Wedekind's seminal 1891 drama about a group of German adolescents whose sexual awakening is warped and thwarted by bourgeois adult society. *7 p.m. (Feb. 14 & 15) & 11 p.m. (Feb. 14), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin. Free. Facebook.com/BasementArts*

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. See 7 Friday. 7 p.m.

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Megan Wilson, Susie Lorand, and Robert Messer call to music by Debbie Jackson, Josh Burdick, Susie Lorand, and Matt McCoy. For experienced dancers. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse (off S. State across from the airport). $12 (members, $10). (248) 288–4737.*

Tina Giori: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

"An Evening of Sam Cooke": Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). A showcase of this pioneer soul singer's music by his youngest daughter, **Carla Cooke,** a composer-vocalist whose style, like her father's, ranges across gospel, R&B, soul, and pop genres. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Tickets $20 in advance at EventBrite.com & at the door. 665–8558.*

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán: University Musical Society. Renowned modern mariachi band with a history that dates back to the 1890s. Its repertoire blends traditional mariachi music with new, innovative pieces that engage audiences, often eliciting spontaneous *gritos* (sing-alongs). *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $21–$61 (students, $12–$20) in advance at Tickets.UMS.org, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Hansel and Gretel": Comic Opera Guild. *Feb. 14–16.* COG member Claudia Wier directs this veteran local company in COG founder Thomas Petiet's adaptation of Humperdinck's classic opera based off the Grimm fairy tale. In this version, set in 1983, a brother and sister are lured into an ostentatious inner-city home by a Mercedes-owning witch. Cast: Olivia Ericsson, Amanda Williams, Leslie Naeve, Chris Grapentine, Jamie Sharp, Cecilia Kowara, & Karen Albert. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 2 p.m. (Sun.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students, $12) available at a2tix.com. 973–3264.*

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Proof": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Valentine's Day Cabaret: Kerrytown Concert House. Performances by local cabaret and musical theater artists TBA, accompanied by pianist Tyler Driskil. Refreshments and desserts; table seating. *9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets TBA at a2tix.com. 769–2999.*

15 SATURDAY

★**"Winter Birding": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring leads a birding hike. Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have them. *8–10 a.m., DeVine Preserve, 6110 W. Liberty. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"Toy Hackathon": Maker Works.** All invited to modify toys for kids with special needs. Bring a battery-operated toy to modify. Instructions and adaptation materials provided. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free, preregistration requested at Maker-Works.com. 222–4911.*

★**34th Annual Winter Fleece Fair: Spinner's Flock.** Sale of Michigan-grown fibers for spinning, felting, and handspun yarns. Also, supplies for spinning, weaving, knitting, and felting. Members offer demos throughout the day. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Beach Middle School, 445 Mayer, Chelsea. Free admission. SpinnersFlock.com, 769–1657.*

50th Annual Train Show and Sale: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. The Midwest's largest model railroad flea market, with more than 400 tables of model railroad equipment and memorabilia. Also, a kids zone, displays of model train operating layouts, clinics by club members, and a raffle. Concessions. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. $6 (scouts in uniform, free; kids ages 9 & under, free with adult). 426–0829.*

★**Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Merilynne Rush and Diana Cramer. Tea & cake served. *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 395–9660.*

★**"Nålbinding": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Beth Battey leads a hands-on demo of this durable & flexible ancient fabric binding technique known in English as knotless knitting. *1–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 327–4200.*

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Masquerade Ball: Fasching Dinner/Dance": Greater Beneficial Union Chapter 630. Traditional German dinner (sauerbraten, spätzle, red cabbage, tossed salad, and bread), followed by dancing to traditional German music by the **Rhinelander Band.** Costume contest with prizes. Coffee, cake, beer, wine, and pop. Fasching is the German equivalent of Mardi Gras. *5:30–11 p.m., Zal Gaz Grotto, 2070 W. Stadium. $30. Preregistration required via phone call to Marianne Rauer at 954–0057 or Traudel Kummer at 913–9371.*

★**Nessa: First Presbyterian Church.** Jazz-Celtic fusion with elements of pop, folk, and chamber music by this local band led by singer-flutist Kelly McDermott, with bassist and didgeridoo player Rob Crozier, guitarist Dan Palmer, keyboardist Brian Brill, drummer Rick Beamon, and percussionist Mike List. Their recently released CD, *Otherworld,* celebrates powerful women. *7 p.m., FPC, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free, but donations accepted for Ozone House. 662–4466.*

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. See 7 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**"Spring Awakening": U-M Basement Arts.** See 14 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Trivia with Cats": Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. Ages 18 & older invited to play trivia and cuddle with adoptable cats. Drinks & popcorn. Admission includes 2 beer and wine tickets (ages 21 & over only). Bring your own nonalcoholic beverages, if you wish. *7:30 p.m., Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson Rd., ste. A1. $15, preregistration available at tinylions.org/trivia. 661–3575.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Rick Szumski calls to music by Nutshell. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring clean, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Pay what you can ($10 suggested). 476–4650.*

Tina Giori: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

"Mr. B's Annual Birthday Bounce": Kerrytown Concert House. Popular annual concert by world-renowned local blues pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun,** an exuberant, powerful performer whose repertoire includes both boogie-woogie and blues classics, along with some originals in the same vein. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

Mavis Staples: The Ark. This legendary gospel, soul, and R&B diva possesses a quintessentially gospel voice that many of her peers—from Bob Dylan to Prince—have found stirring. With its trademark blend of awesome power and shimmering grace, punctuated here and there with a startling growl, her singing invokes a revelatory luminance that, in her

words, will "leave people feeling better than I found them." Tonight's show is a benefit for the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church breakfast program. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $45–$150 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and TheArk.org, & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.*

"Hansel and Gretel": Comic Opera Guild. See 14 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Proof": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

16 SUNDAY

★**"Washtenaw County Community Supported Agriculture Fair": Ann Arbor District Library.** All interested in supporting local agriculture and eating local foods invited to ask various area farmers questions and sign up for seasonal produce, meat, and more. *Noon–2 p.m., AADL Downtown, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

Andrew Anderson. An accomplished accompanist, chamber musician, and soloist, this veteran local pianist presents a program featuring music by Chopin and by 20th-century composers Nikolai Medtner, Ferruccio Busoni, Robert Palmer, and Alan Rawsthorne. *1:45–3:30 p.m., Faber Piano Institute, 3042 Creek Dr. $10 (students & seniors, $5) suggested donation. 975–1995.*

"Hansel and Gretel": Comic Opera Guild. See 14 Friday. 2 p.m.

"North Star": EMU Theatre Department. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Proof": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"House Made of Dawn": UMMA Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of N. Scott Momaday's 1968 novel about a young Native American man returning home from WWII. Led by U-M Afroamerican and African Studies program manager Elizabeth James, a Detroit-based Powhatan storyteller. Please bring the 50th anniversary edition. *3–4 p.m., UMMA Eleanor Noyes Crumpacker Gallery, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

"Raise a Glass! An Afternoon with Opera on Tap": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in Bizet's *Carmen Suites 1 & 2*, the Overture to Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, the Overture to Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, and more. The symphony is joined by singers from the local Opera on Tap chapter for opera arias TBA. *3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (seniors ages 65 & older, students with ID, & kids ages 12 & under, $6; family of 4 & up, $30) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 507–1451.*

Lindsay Lou Rilko: Rancho Tranquilico. House concert by this Lansing-based singer-guitarist. Known for fronting the popular swing-flavored bluegrass band the Flatbellys, she recently released the CD *Southland*. BYOB and a small folding chair. Water & cookies available. *3:30 p.m., 11300 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. $30 in advance at BrownPaperTickets.com and (if available) at the door. blonik13@aol.com, 223–2321.*

"Angélique Kidjo's Remain in Light": University Musical Society. Celebrated Beninese singer Kidjo performs songs from her recent album, a reinterpretation of the Talking Heads' seminal 1980 album. It emphasizes West African percussion, horn orchestrations, and languages that inspired the first *Remain in Light*. With guitarist Dominic James, keyboardist Etienne Stadwijk, percussionist Magatte Sow, bassist Michael Olatuja, and drummer Yayo Serka. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $31–$66 (students, $12–$20) in advance at Tickets.UMS.org, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

★**"Love and Information": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama professor Kate Mendeloff's students direct and perform renowned English playwright Caryl Churchill's acclaimed 2012 play about relationships in the digital age, an evolving mosaic of more than 50 fragmented and superficially unconnected scenes. *7 p.m., Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

17 MONDAY

★**"Introduction to Linoleum Carving": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to carve an image onto a 3x4-inch linoleum block and use it to print on a coaster or card. Bring an idea or example of your intended imagery. No experience necessary. Materials provided. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** All invited to a panel discussion by club members of how to assemble a stamp or postal history exhibit. Also, a mini stamp auction. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free. arbor@provide.net, 761–5859.*

★**Hie-Yon Choi: U-M School of Music.** This world-renowned Korean pianist performs a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

18 TUESDAY

"Spirit Garden": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Center for Wellbeing (Dexter) chiropractor Alan Boyce discusses **"Ancient Egypt & the Golden Age."** Followed by discussion on world entropy in 2020. *6–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $10. 426–4140.*

★**Adam Falkner: Literati Bookstore.** This poet & educator, an Ann Arbor native, reads from ***The Willies***, his brand-new poetry collection which uses personal stories to explore the legacies of toxic masculinity and the interior tensions of queer life. Signing. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★**Motown Legends Gospel Choir: Ann Arbor District Library.** Albert Chisholm, lead singer of the Contours, directs this eminent Detroit-based choir, an ensemble that includes many past and present Motown artists. The music is interspersed with Motown reminiscences by some of the singers. *7–8 p.m., AADL Downtown, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Polka Jam Session.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. *7–9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 44 Wabash St., Milan. Free. 529–3903.*

★**"Food-Waste Dinner": U-M Planet Blue.** U-M dining chefs make a dinner out of food that otherwise would have gone to waste. Also, panel conversation with U-M urban & regional planning professors Lesli Hoey, City of Ann Arbor solid waste coordinator Jennifer Petoskey, and U-M student TBA. *7 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Rm. Free, preregistration required at EventBright.com. 707–6239.*

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. See 5 Wednesday. Tonight's theme: **"Cold."** 7:30 p.m.

★**"The Polar Vortex, Climate Change and Weird Weather": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Talk by U-M environmental science professor emeritus Henry Pollack. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. hvg@michigan.sierraclub.org*

★**"the little match girl passion": UMMA.** Eugene Rogers directs the **U-M Chamber Choir** in David Lang's 2008 Pulitzer-winning oratorio that *Pitchfork* critic Jayson Greene calls "a breathtakingly spare and icily gorgeous adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale." Lang starts his week-long residency at U-M today. *8 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

19 WEDNESDAY

★**"How the Suffragists Changed Michigan": AAUW-Ann Arbor.** Talk by Elizabeth Homer, former curator of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by lunch ($15, reservations required). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. (844) 973–6287.*

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

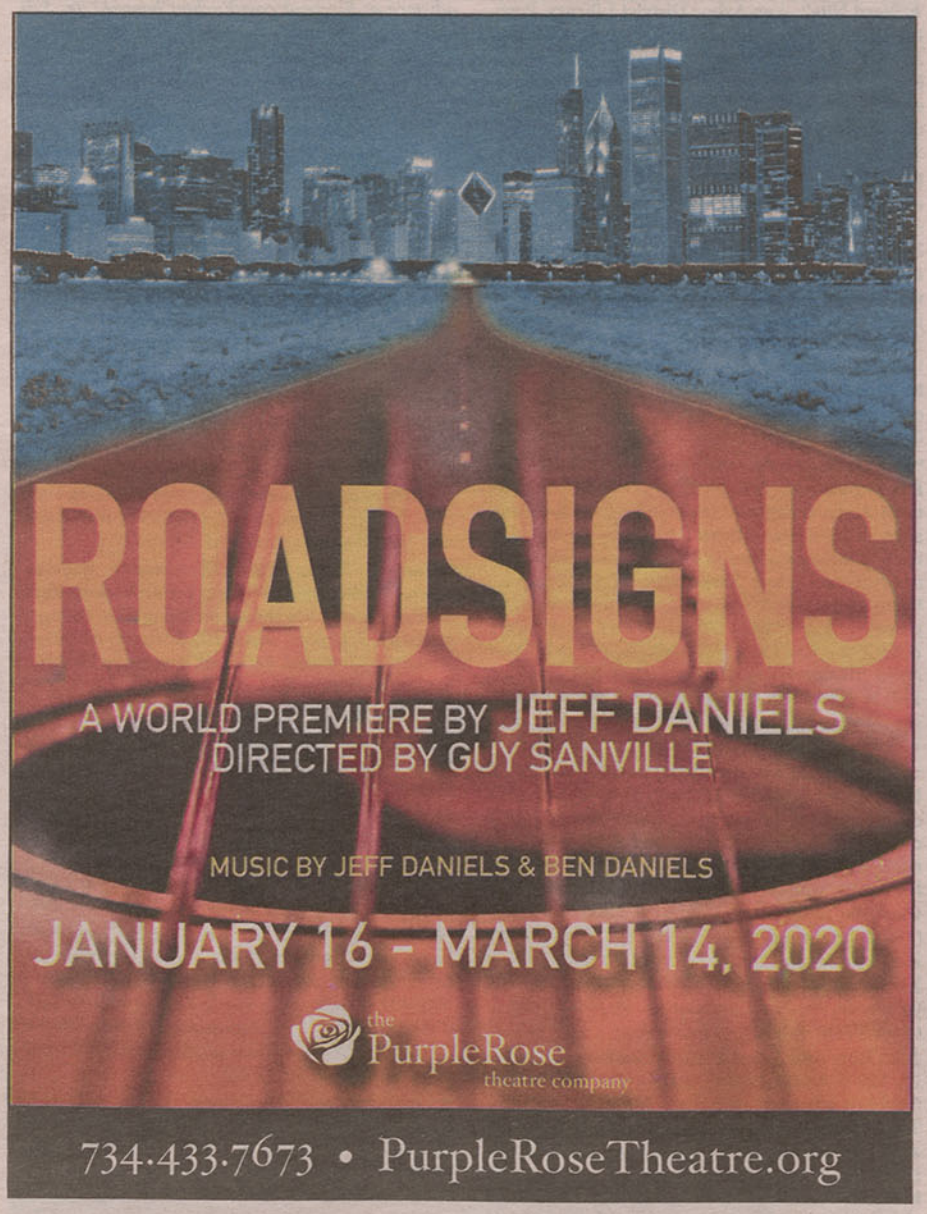
★**"Smell & Tell: Brian Eno Smells": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning flavor and fragrance blog Glass Petal Smoke, discusses, with smell samples, renowned ambient musician Eno's love for fragrant raw smells. *6:30–8:45 p.m., AADL Downtown 4th fl. meeting rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

"15th Annual African American Foodways Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's head chef Bob Bennett & *Thrillist* food and acclaimed cookbook author Nicole Taylor host a dinner celebrating the African American Cultural and Historical Museum featuring recipes from Taylor's upbringing in Athens, GA. Menu highlights include smoked trout, deviled eggs, coffee rubbed short ribs, rutabaga gratin, and southern-style beans. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $75 (beverages not included), preregistration required. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti nonprofit We the People Opportunity Center. 663–3663.*

★**Anna Krushelnitskaya: Ann Arbor District Library.** This local writer discusses ***Cold War Casual***, her new collection of oral testimonies from Americans & Russians who lived through the Cold War. Signing. *7–9 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Birding Northern California": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Len Sander uses photos to discuss this popular birding destination. Preceded at 7:10 p.m. by snacks & socializing. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free, metered parking. WashtenawAudubon.org*

★**Brews & Views: Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters.** Panel discussion with U-M information professor Mark Ackerman and a U-M political



science professor TBA on 2020 election manipulation schemes. *7:30–9 p.m., Homes Brewery, 2321 Jackson Ave. Free, food & drink for sale. 272–3634.*

★**Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss Sef Gonzalez's 2019 book ***All About the Burger: A History of America's Favorite Sandwich***. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Aisha Sabatini Sloan: Concordia University.** Reading by this award-winning essayist, a U-M creative writing visiting professor whose work ranges from personal writing about race and current events to analysis of art, film, and pop culture. *7:30 p.m., Kreft Center Recital Hall, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7389.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"New Music Concert": University Philharmonia Orchestra (U-M School of Music).** This ensemble of U-M music majors performs its annual concert of new works by student composers, with student conductors. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

20 THURSDAY

★**"Drug Trafficking in SE Michigan and *The Mule*": Daughters of the American Revolution.** Talk by Detroit DEA agent Kent Kleinschmidt, who worked on the drug trafficking case portrayed in Clint Eastwood's 2018 movie, *The Mule*. *1 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free, reservations requested. MarthaValen@comcast.net*

★**Gemini: International Neighbors.** All area women invited to watch this popular Ann Arbor acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits perform a program of original songs. International Neighbors is a 61-year-old group of local women who welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Child care available for ages 5 & under. *1–2:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. International-Neighbors.org*

★**Catherine Lacey: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Reading by this acclaimed Chicago-based author, whose 2018 short story collection, *Certain American States,* depicts Americans tortured by the mundanity of their lives. Known for her beautifully crafted sentences and understated plots, Lacey creates work that exists "somewhere between prose poem and fugue state," according to the *LA Times*. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **Q&A**. *5:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State (Q&A, 1176 Angell Hall). Free. 764–6330.*

★**"Nerd Nite": Ann Arbor District Library.** Popular monthly event featuring several speakers TBA (at AnnArbor.NerdNite.com) who give fun yet informative 20-minute talks about things that interest them—everything from the ubiquity of artists to the science of healing. *7–9:30 p.m. or so, Live, 102 S. First. Free. 327–4200.*

Budapest Festival Orchestra: University Musical Society. *See review, above.* This internationally acclaimed orchestra, founded in 1983 by conductor Iván Fischer, is known for vigorous, spirited performances that are also intelligent and sensitive to detail. Tonight, acclaimed violinist **Renaud Capuçon** joins the orchestra in an all-Dvořák program that includes *Legends,* Four Choruses, *Slavonic Dance* in C minor, Violin Concerto in A minor, and Symphony No. 8. *7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $17–$91 in advance at Tickets.UMS.org, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Sonnets, Soliloquies, and Soul": U-M Musical Theatre Department. *Feb. 20–23.* NYU Tisch School for the Arts drama professor (and former U-M Broadway artist in residence) **Michael McElroy** directs U-M musical theater students in his new musical revue, an adaptation of various Shakespeare works reimagined through African American musical idioms such as soul, gospel, jazz, and funk. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), U-M Walgreen Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin. Tickets $20 (students, $13) in advance at tickets.smtd.umich.edu, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Yerma" U-M Theatre Department. *Feb. 20–23.* U-M theater professor Malcolm Tulip directs U-M drama students in Federico García Lorca's 1934 drama, which García Lorca called a "tragic poem," about a young Spanish woman, married to please her family, who seeks advice from the town's elders when she is unable to produce a child. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $24–$30 (students, $13) in advance at tickets.smtd.umich.edu, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

John Roy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 20–22.* This L.A.-based comic, 2003 winner of CBS *Star Search,* is a frequent performer on network and cable TV. A self-described "fully-grown man who looks like a 12-year-old dressed for recess," his laid-back but incisive observations on contemporary culture, childhood, racial tolerance, and the media are punctuated by energetic character voices, clever dialogue, and the occasional bit of singing. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance at etix.com before 6 p.m. the night of the show; $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

★**Orpheus Singers: U-M School of Music.** This music-student choir performs songs on the theme of "love is more than love." Program: selections from Brahms' *Liebeslieder*, Vaughan Williams' *In Windsor Forest*, and Persichetti's *Flower Songs*. Preceded at 7:15 p.m by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615–3204.*

21 FRIDAY

★**"Ice Carving Extravaganza": Main Street Area Association.** *Feb. 21 & 22.* Members of the U-M ice carving team chip huge blocks of ice into twinkling sculptures, which remain on display as long as the weather holds. *3–7 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.), Main & Liberty. Free. MainStreetAnnArbor.org*

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, whatever. Maker Works members and staff on hand to help and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. *4–6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free. 222–4911.*

U-M Women's Lacrosse vs. Louisville. Home opener. This month's schedule also includes games vs. **Colorado** (Feb. 23, noon) and **Albany** (Feb. 29, noon). *5 p.m., U-M Lacrosse Stadium, 2500 S. State. $6 in advance at mGOblue.com/tickets & at the gate. 764–0247.*

★**Night Hike: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** A hike in the dark, led by WCPARC naturalists. Dress for the outdoors. Followed by a bonfire and hot cocoa. *6–8:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park,* 3200 Jennings. *Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. $6 vehicle entry fee. 449–4437, ext. 203.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" Five-game euchre tournament. Prizes. Food & drink available; bring a snack to share, if you wish. Quarters are collected each time a team gets euchred. Proceeds benefit Haitian children. *6:30 p.m. sharp (check-in closes at 6:15 p.m.), 2|42 Community Center, 648 S. Wagner. $10 donation in advance at facebook.com/EuchreChangeALife; $20 at the door. EuchreChangeALife@gmail.com*

★**Game Night: Sweetwaters Downtown.** All invited to play cards & board games. Bring your own game, or use one provided. *6:30–10:30 p.m., Sweetwaters, 123 W. Washington. Free. 417–4266.*

★**William D. Lopez: Literati Bookstore.** This U-M public health professor reads from his new book (see 4 Tuesday listing). Signing. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★**"Crystal Intentions: Practices for Manifesting Wellness": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to join a discussion, led by Crazy Wisdom staffer Deb Flint, of holistic wellness writers Araminta Star Matthews & Lune Innate's 2019 book. *7:30–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to try kirtan, an ancient yogic spiritual practice that involves singing and chanting. Accompanied by live music on tabla, harmonium, cello, violin, and finger cymbals. The program ends with silent meditation and homemade chai. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Stone Chalet, 1917 Washtenaw Ave. Free, donations accepted. 476–2621.*

★**Comedy Night: Bløm Meadworks.** Stand-up showcase featuring sets by area comic **Andrew Yang** & others, with jokes about everything from dating to mortality. *7:30 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, donations suggested. Facebook.com/BlomComedy*

John Roy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★**Piano Concerto Concert: U-M School of Music.** Yaniv Segal directs the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** in a program of concertos with U-M piano grad student soloists Zixiang Wang, Xiting Yang, Xiaoya Liu, and Melissa Coppola. Program: Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1, Beethoven's Concerto No 4, Ravel's Concerto in G Major, and Gershwin's Concerto in F. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"Rising Stars Series with Sean Dobbins": Kerrytown Concert House. Local jazz drummer Dobbins leads pianist and Father Gabriel Richard high school student Cormac Avila in a program TBA. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com & (if available) at the door. 769–2999.*

★**Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Adria Slywotzky conducts this adventurous ensemble of music majors in works by **David Lang**, a visiting composer known for a "post-minimalist" style that resists categorization. Program: *Just, Broken Wings, Pierced,* and *Increase*. The final event of Lang's week-long U-M residency. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

Dorrance Dance: University Musical Society. *Feb. 21 & 22.* Led by former STOMP member and 2015 MacArthur "Genius" award-winner Michelle Dorrance, this New York City tap dance company performs 3 of her creative choreographed explorations of footwork—***Myelination, Jungle Blues,*** & ***Three to One***—on its own floor, which it travels with to ensure that each performance meets its exacting standards. On Feb. 21 only, a post-show **artist Q&A.** *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $39–$66 (students, $12–$20) in advance at Tickets.UMS.org, the Michigan League, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Sonnets, Soliloquies, and Soul": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 20 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Yerma" U-M Theatre Department. See 20 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

22 SATURDAY

★**"6th Annual Polish Pottery Party": Downtown Home & Garden.** *Feb. 22 & 23.* Display of a wide range of fine pottery. Also, European Designs (Westlake, OH) import company shows and discusses Polish pottery on Sat. only. Samples of pierogi & sauerkraut (Sat.) and Polish pastries (Sun.), while supplies last. *8 a.m.–7 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), DH&G, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★**The Winter Garden: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Naturalist Shawn Severance discusses how insects overwinter in gardens, followed by a hike to look for signs of insects. Wildflower tea. *10 a.m.–noon, County Farm Park, 2230 Platt. Free. 971–6337.*

"Brick Bash 2020": Skyline High School Band Fundraiser. *Feb. 22 & 23.* Public Lego building party with a Duplo play area for young kids and displays of models by Lego hobbyists from around the country. *Sat. only:* a performance by the **Skyline Drumline** (2 p.m.). Sale of Lego products, custom sets, and publications. Concessions. *11 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sat.) & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), Skyline, 2552 N. Maple. $5 (family, $20). BrickBash.com, 637–9429.*

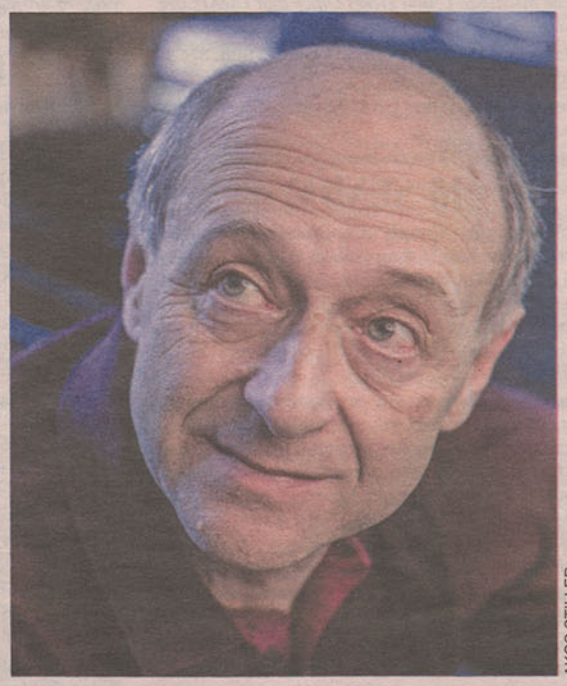
★**"Ann Arbor Art + Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon": U-M Library.** All invited to edit Wikipedia pages of women artists & activists of color, with a particular emphasis on women from Detroit and Michigan. Part of a global campaign to improve representation of women, feminism, and art on Wikipedia. Tutorials, assistance, and laptops available. Talk & live set by Detroit-based DJ **Mother Cyborg.** *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Stamps Gallery, 201 S. Division. Free, preregistration requested at umLib.us/wikiedit-register. 614–0357.*

★**"Retro Computing": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local amateur computer historian James Kruth shows how to operate an 8-bit computer and use basic programming language to make a small game. No ex-

classical

Budapest Festival Orchestra

An evening with Antonín Dvořák



AKOS STILLER

The Budapest Festival Orchestra's conductor and cofounder Iván Fischer is a master at presenting traditional classical music in an unconventional manner. He is also motivated by an unshakable humanitarian philosophy, and speaking out against intolerance, oppression and the persecution of targeted ethnic groups. Fischer's public response to Hungary's increasingly right-wing authoritarian government has included holding concerts in abandoned and repurposed synagogues—a bold move for a man whose grandparents were murdered in Nazi concentration camps, and whose parents survived the Holocaust by going into hiding. During the 1990s, Fischer invited choirs from war-torn Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia to convene in Budapest, where under his direction 800 voices sang Schiller's egalitarian "Ode to Joy" in the finale of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. This month, Fischer and the BFO will present an evening of music by Antonín Dvořák at Hill Auditorium. The concert will open with one of Dvořák's Legends, from a cycle inspired by the work of Karol Jaromir Erben, an accomplished versifier and folklorist who collected well over 2,000 Slavic fairy tales. The BFO is unique among symphony orchestras in that some of the players also perform as a choir. On this evening they will sing "Misto Klekani," a setting of verses by Dvořák's other favorite poet, Adolf Heyduk. The title, usually given in English as "Evening's Blessing," translates directly from Czech as "A Place for Kneeling." After the choir members resume their seats, the orchestra will launch into a lively *skočná*, or reel, from the ever-popular Slavonic Dances.

Slavic ancestry is not required for a listener to be moved by Dvořák's Violin Concerto, but I can testify that whenever I hear its first movement, my East European DNA rears up and wants to howl like a Eurasian wolf. Special guest violinist Renaud Capuçon's performance of this exciting work will mark his UMS premiere.

Like Leos Janáçek, the greatest Czech composer of the twentieth century, Dvořák heard music in everything around him. Standing near Niagara Falls in 1893, he commented that the cascading tons of water sounded to him like a symphony in B Minor. Birdsong is woven into many of his works, including the Symphony no. 8, composed during the autumn of 1889 at his farmhouse retreat near the village of Vysoka, about thirty miles southwest of Prague. The Eighth, which will cap the BFO's evening with Antonín Dvořák, is a marvelously personal opus, directly inspired by the composer's early morning walks through pastoral Bohemian forests and meadowlands.

Let's close by invoking the spirit of composer Edward Elgar, who once confided to a friend: "I wish you could hear Dvořák's music. It is simply ravishing, so tuneful and clever, and the orchestration is wonderful. I cannot describe it. It must be heard."

The University Musical Society presents the Budapest Festival Orchestra at Hill on February 20.

—arwulf arwulf

perience required. *1–3 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"The Roots of Hip-Hop Music": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by EMU urban education grad student Victoria Shields. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Town Square: Stories that Unfold in Public Places": UMMA & Radio Campfire.** All invited to gather & listen to this curated program of prerecorded audio stories on the theme of "public space." *7–8 p.m., UMMA Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St. Free. 764–0395.*

Ara Topouzian: Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization Blacksmith Shop Concert. Traditional Armenian music by this Detroit musician who plays the *kanun,* a Middle Eastern lap harp/zither with over 76 strings, along with a variety of percussion instruments. *7:30 p.m., Blacksmith Shop, 324 E. Main, Manchester. $18. 223–6876.*

"33rd Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark. *Feb. 22 & 23 (different programs).* Performances for adults (Sat.) & families (Sun.) by 3 top storytellers from around the country. Headliner is **Antonio Rocha,** a Brazilian native now living in Maine whose performances blend folktales, mime, and social justice stories based on his experiences as an immigrant. Also, **Anne Rutherford** & **Norm Brecke,** a veteran storytelling duo from the Pacific Northwest whose repertoires include a wide assortment of folktales and lots of humor, and **Barbara Schutzgruber,** an award-winning local storyteller who specializes in folktales, ballads, and personal stories of resilience. Emcee is Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild president **Steve Daut.** *7:30 p.m. (Sat.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 (Sat.) & $10 (Sun.) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, TheArk.org, & at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

John Roy: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

Duo Belder Kimura: Academy of Early Music. Japanese Baroque violinist **Rie Kimura** and Dutch harpsichordist & fortepianist **Pieter-Jan Belder,** a duo widely acclaimed for its recording of C.P.E. Bach's complete violin sonatas, present **"Brilliant Violin Sonatas from the Baroque,"** a program featuring sonatas by Corelli, Scarlatti, and J.S. Bach. Preceded at 7:15 by a lecture by the artists. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $30 (seniors, $25; students, $10) in advance by Feb. 14 at AcademyOfEarlyMusic.org and Bookbound (1729 Plymouth); $35 (seniors, $30; students, $15) at the door. 228–4338.*

Annual Rent Party: Jazzistry. Dancing to this local educational jazz history ensemble that's led by saxophonist and clarinetist **Vincent York.** Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. A fundraiser for Jazzistry's award-winning K–12 educational programs. *8–11 p.m., EMU Student Center Grand Ballroom, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. Tickets $45 in advance at a2tix.com & $55 at the door. 761–6024.*

"Acoustic Beatles": Kerrytown Concert House. Local swing quintet **Accidentally Hip** is joined by local soul & blues singer-songwriter **Adam Plomaritas** and other guest musicians TBA to perform acoustic versions of the Beatles' greatest hits. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at A2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

Dorrance Dance: University Musical Society. See 21 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Sonnets, Soliloquies, and Soul": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 20 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Yerma" U-M Theatre Department. See 20 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

23 SUNDAY

"Mise-en-Scene: How Films Communicate": Michigan Theater Movies 101. Talk by EMU film studies professor emeritus Henry Aldridge. Followed by a screening of Michael Curtiz's 1942 *Casablanca.* First in a series of 5 weekly sessions examining common filmmaking techniques. *Noon, Michigan Theater. $20 (MTF members, $15). 668–8397.*

★**"The Global 1918 Influenza Pandemic": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Discussion led by club member & genealogist Katherine Willson. Followed by a talk led by club member Omer Jean Winborn on **"The Underground Railroad in Washtenaw County."** *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Women's Health Center, rm. 1AB, 5305 Elliott. Free. 483–2799.*

★**"The African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County": Ann Arbor District Library.** Museum president Joyce Hunter discusses its new location at 1528 Pontiac Trail & its future plans. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library 3rd fl. freespace, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. AnnArborStorytelling.org*

"Some Chestnuts and a Harder Nut to Crack": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M piano professor emeritus **Louis Nagel,** a longtime favorite with local audiences, performs a program of familiar short works followed by a longer piece TBA. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

"Sonnets, Soliloquies, and Soul": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 20 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Yerma" U-M Theatre Department. See 20 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Apple Season": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"Screenagers Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience": First United Methodist Church.** Showing of Delaney Ruston's 2019 documentary exploring the impact of screen time on young people's mental health. *6 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Free. 662–4536.*

"Winter Jam 2020": EMU Convocation Center. Performances by several Christian pop musicians, including Texas-based rock singer **Crowder,** Australian dance-pop music group **Hillsong Young & Free,** NYC-bred hip-hop artist **Andy Mineo,** and more. Also, a talk by Colorado evangelist **Nick Hall.** For a complete lineup, see 2020.JamTour.com/cities/ypsilanti-mi. *6–9 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt, Ypsilanti. Tickets TBA in advance at 2020.JamTour.com & at the door. 478–2822.*

★**"Magic: The Gathering": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to compete in an informal session of this popular collectible card game. No official judges or format. Bring your own cards or use those available. No experience necessary. *6–8 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Michael Dean: U-M School of Music.** This celebrated American clarinetist performs a program TBA. *7 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

24 MONDAY

★**"Health at Every Size": Ann Arbor District Library.** RISE yoga and mindfulness education business owner Raina LaGrand discusses what health is, what it's not, & how it's possible at different body sizes. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek, 3090 E. Eisenhower. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Failure to Launch or Developmental Launching Pad?": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M psychology professor Katie Jodl discusses the challenges 21st-century twentysomethings encounter during their transition from youth to adulthood. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Folk Song Jam-Along."** All invited to join a family-oriented recreational sing-along of familiar folk, pop, rock, Broadway tunes, and more. Bring your instruments if you'd like to jam along as well. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Westgate. Free. 426–7818.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this ensemble of music majors in works by 3 U-M women composers: *Propellers in the Sun* by alumna **Tanner Porter**, *Rain On It* by composition professor **Kristin Kuster,** and a Piano Concerto by current music student **Karalyn Schubring,** who is also the soloist. Also, work by two 20th-century French composers: Fauré's *Pelleas and Melisande* and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé Suite No. 2.* Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

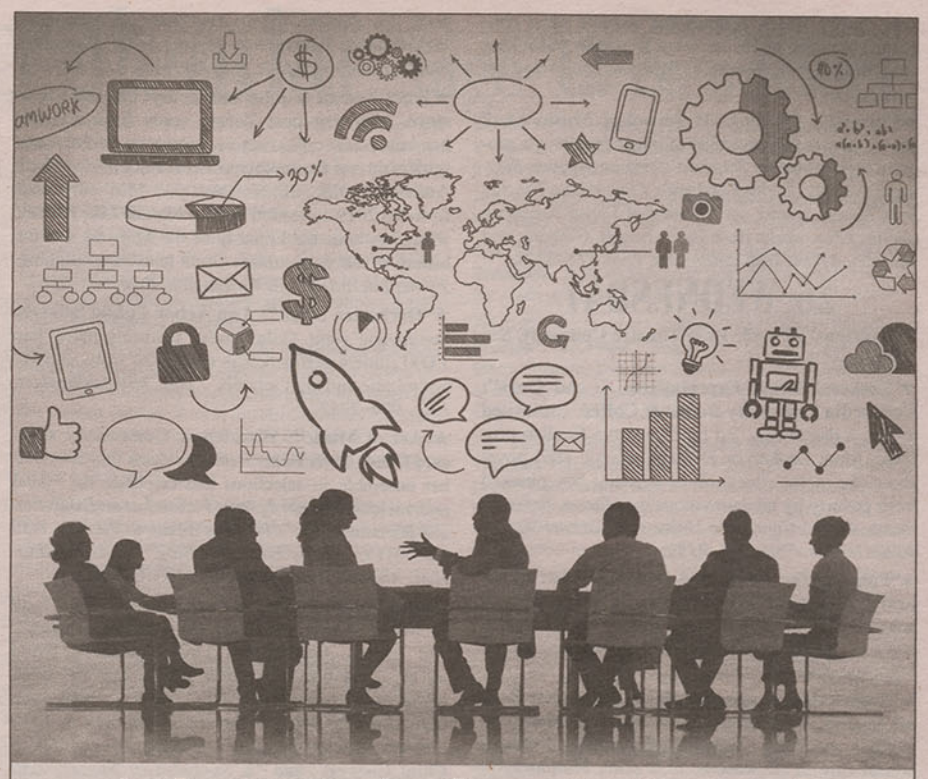
★**Landman & Stadler Duo: U-M School of Music.** Saxophonists Geoffrey Landman (NYC) and Patrick Stadler (Basel, Switzerland), known for their interpretations of new music, perform a program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615–3204.*

25 TUESDAY

★**"From the Great Lakes to the Global Water Crisis: Writers on Water": U-M Library.** Great Lakes area writers and *Michigan Quarterly Review* contributors read poetry and prose about water in Michigan and beyond. Featuring environmental journalist Anna Clark, retired U-M creative writing professor Keith Taylor, and others. *5:30–7 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery (enter from the Diag). Free. 764–5293.*

★**Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters.** Reading by **Jennifer Sperry Steinorth,** a Michigan-based experimental poet whose 2019 collection *A Wake with Nine Shades* is a Dantean descent through a contemporary midlife crisis. Preceded by an open mic. *7–8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994–6663.*

★**Mark Greaney: Nicola's Books.** This *New York Times* bestselling author and longtime Tom Clancy collaborator reads from ***One Minute Out,*** his brand-



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new thriller which follows the world's most dangerous assassin as he uncovers a human trafficking operation. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★University Choir: U-M School of Music. Mark Stover directs this ensemble of music majors in a program highlighted by Schubert's cantata *Mirjams Siegesgesang* and Charles Forsberg's *From Where The Sun Now Stands,* a song cycle setting of Native American poems. Also, works from Finzi, Hogan, Gibbons, and Poulenc. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

26 WEDNESDAY

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★"Dickens' Great Expectations ... and Ours": Concordia University Books & Coffee. All invited to join a discussion, led by Concordia English professor Mark Looker, on Dickens' classic 1861 novel about the moral education of a young boy plucked from poverty by an anonymous benefactor. Refreshments. *4 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7389.*

★"Painting for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library. Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a directed painting activity to learn how to mix acrylic paints. *6–8 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Seasonals & Bonsai Display": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens collections specialist Carmen Leskoviansky discusses bonsai care in all seasons. *6:30 p.m., Matthaei Auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. aaBonsaiSociety@gmail.com*

★Paul Bernstein & Bradley K. Meyer: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Double bill of poetry readings. Local poet Bernstein's recent *What the Owls Know* is a collection of poems that take stock of both the richness and disappointments of the material world set against the backdrop of an anticipated afterlife. Dayton-based poet & photographer Meyer's light-hearted poems have appeared in *Superstition Review & Rust+Moth.* Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mic. *7–8:45 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Discussion Center. All invited to discuss their metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. *7–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring, 704 Airport Blvd. Free, donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★"James Webb Space Telescope: What Happens after the Hubble Space Telescope?": U-M Astronomy Department Mohler Prize Lecture. Talk by University of Arizona astronomy professor Marcia J. Rieke. *7 p.m., Michigan League Michigan Rm. Free. 764–3440.*

★History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Ian Stewart's 2007 book *Why Beauty Is Truth: A History of Symmetry. 7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

West-Eastern Divan Ensemble: University Musical Society. Violinist Michael Barenboim directs this Seville-based chamber ensemble of Arab & Israeli musicians. Program: Brahms' String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat major, the young French composer Benjamin Attahir's *Jawb* for String Octet, and Mendelssohn's String Octet in E-flat major. Also, Barenboim plays Italian Baroque composer Giuseppe Tartini's *Devil's Trill Sonata* in G minor for solo violin. *7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $35–$66 (students, $12–$20) in advance at Tickets.UMS.org, the Michigan League, by phone, & at the door. 764–2538.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

27 THURSDAY

★"Carbon vs Carbon Dioxide: Using Carbon-Based Organic Electronics for a More Sustainable Planet": U-M Annual Henry Russel Lecture. Talk by U-M physics professor **Stephen Forrest.** The Russel Award is the U-M's highest honor, awarded annually to a faculty member who is especially distinguished in his or her field. Reception follows. *4:30–5:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 615–0520.*

★"Lake Sturgeon: Past, Present, and Future of an Ancient Fish": U-M Muse2um of Natural History William Farrand Memorial Lecture. Panel discussion with U-M paleontology director Matt Friedman, U-M environment & sustainability professor Karen Alofs, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians natural resources department director Doug Craven. Preceded at 6 p.m. by hors d'oeuvres and live music by a U-M music ensemble TBA. *7–8 p.m., 1060 MNH, 1105 North University. Free. 764–0480.*

★"Slavery Didn't End: Facing the Truth in the Age of Make America Great Again": Ann Arbor District Library. New City of Detroit arts & culture director Rochelle Riley, a former award-winning *Detroit Free Press* columnist, discusses some themes of her 2018 book, *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm., 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4200.*

★Tracy Zeman & John McCarthy: Literati Bookstore. Michigan poet Zeman reads from ***Empire,*** her brand-new collection of poems about European settlement and the ecological devastation of the North American prairie. Illinois-based poet McCarthy reads from his 2019 collection ***Scared Violent Like Horses***, which explores the brutality of the Midwest and the beauty in the vulnerability of its landscape. Signing. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★"Orchestra Night": Ann Arbor Public Schools. *See review, right.* Gala concert featuring more than 1,000 student performers in orchestras from Ann Arbor middle and high schools. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 994–2252.*

★"Art of Music": Washtenaw Community Concert Band. Chris Heidenreich conducts this 80-member ensemble in selections that celebrate the visual arts, including Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Richard Meyer's *Pablo*, a tribute to Picasso. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River. Free. WCCband.org*

"Mary Poppins": Burns Park Players. *Feb. 27–29 & Mar. 1.* Burns Park elementary students, parents, and friends perform this Disney musical, based on the 1964 film adaptation of P.L. Travers' book about the "practically perfect" magical nanny who transforms the lives of the Banks children in 1910 London. The score includes such favorites as "Chim Chim Cher-ee," and "A Spoonful of Sugar." *7:30 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $20–$25 (students, $15) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, muto.umich.edu, & at the door. 763–8587.*

Joe List: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 27–29.* Known for his worrywart persona and cerebral, self-deprecating observational humor, this NYC-based comic has twice appeared on Conan and opened for Louis C.K. during his 2016 international tour. He has a special on the Netflix series *The Standups.* Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance at etix.com before 6 p.m. the night of the show; $12 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★"New Opera Workshop: *Tales from the Briar Patch*": U-M School of Music. Workshop reading of American composers Nkeiru Okoye and Carman Moore's opera *Tales from the Briar Patch*, a work-in-progress that retells the traditional Bre'r Rabbit stories. Followed by conversation with the composers and audience feedback. 8 p.m., *U-M Walgreen Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615–3204.*

"Lungs": Kickshaw Theatre. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Feb. 27–Mar. 15.* Paige Conway directs local actors in British playwright Duncan Macmillan's smart and funny drama, which follows a modern couple through the surprising lifecycle of their relationship. Stars Claire Joliffe and Nick Yocum. *8–9:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2–3:30 p.m. (Sun.), trustArt Studios, 7885 Jackson Rd. Tickets $15–$30 in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 203–0556.*

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Real Inspector Hound": PTD Productions. *Feb. 27–29, Mar. 1, & Mar. 4–7.* Tim Henning directs local actors in Tom Stoppard's play-within-a-play farce in which two critics go to see the premiere of an extravagantly stereotypical murder mystery. One of the critics becomes so involved that he ends up in the play he's supposedly watching. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Wed. & Sun.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students & seniors, $12; Thurs. only, pay what you can) in advance at a2tix.com, by phone, & at the door. 483–7345.*

28 FRIDAY

★"Lenten Organ Recital Series": American Guild of Organists. U-M organ student Joseph Mutone performs 19th-century French composer-organist Charles Marie Widor's 6th organ symphony. *12:15 p.m.–1 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 604–3205.*

★"Miniatures Painting Workshop": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to learn how to paint miniatures for **fairy gardens**—complete with books, scrolls, food, & stools—for games and hobbies. Materials provided, or bring your own supplies. *6:30–8:30 p.m. AADL Downtown Secret Lab & multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★Colum McCann: Literati Bookstore. This internationally bestselling author reads from ***Apeirogon,*** his brand-new book about 2 fathers—one Israeli, one Palestinian—who are brought together after the tragic loss of their children. Followed by a conversation between McCann and U-M creative writing professor **Julie Buntin**. Signing. *7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State St. Tickets $32.15 (includes hardcover copy of book.) 585–5567.*

★Aakash Mittal Trio: Concordia University. Saxophonist Mittal performs his original music that's known for mixing American and Indian musical styles. *7:30 p.m., Kreft Center Recital Hall, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7537.*

"Mary Poppins": Burns Park Players. See 27 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"James & the Giant Peach Jr.": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Every Fri.–Sun., Feb. 28–Mar. 8.* Matthew Brennan directs a cast of young local actors in a junior version of U-M grads Benj Pasek & Justin Paul's 2010 musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantasy novel. The story follows an orphaned boy rescued from the care of 2 cruel aunts who finds himself drifting across the Atlantic in a giant peach in the company of a variety of engaging anthropomorphized insects. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $24 (ages 17 & under, $19) in advance at theEncoreTheatre.org & at the door. 268–6200.*

Joe List: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

Juggernaut Jug Band: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Traditional jug band music by this acclaimed quartet from Louisville, the birthplace of jug bands. A mixture of classic jazz, ragtime, and blues, jug band music is performed by a modified string band that includes kazoos and other wind instruments, washboard, and a stoneware jug. Juggernaut has been featured on both the *Today Show* and the Dr. Demento radio show. Its latest album is *Jugs Up! 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. Tickets $15 in advance at EventBrite.com & at the door. 665–8558.*

"SONGS4WINDS": Kerrytown Concert House. Local pianist **Kathryn Goodson** joins established and rising young wind players TBA in a program of emotive wind arrangements of classic art songs. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

"Thoughts and Prayers": Neighborhood Theatre Group. *Every Thurs.–Sat., Feb. 28–Mar. 8.* Marisa Dluge directs the premiere of local playwright A.M. Dean's drama about a botched school shooting that inspires the U.S. Department of Education to militarize all teachers. Cast: Mimi Blackford, Eric Hohnke, Mike Sandusky, Debbie Secord, Kate Umstatter, and Craig Van Kempen. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Riverside Arts Center studio 1, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $12 (student, $7) in advance at NTGypsi.org & $15 at the door.*

"Lungs": Kickshaw Theatre. See 27 Thursday. 8–9:30 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"The Real Inspector Hound": PTD Productions. See 27 Thursday. 8 p.m.

29 SATURDAY

39th Annual Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival: Ford Seahorses & Sea Lancers Scuba Diving Club. A daylong series of 1-hour presentations on Great Lakes maritime history and shipwrecks, along with diving topics. Complete schedule at GreatLakesShipWreckFestival.org. *9 a.m.–5 p.m.,*

family

ANDREW YANG

AAPS Orchestra Night

We had heard about Orchestra Night for years.

Every February, friends with older children told us about the logistics of transporting and guarding so many instruments, about the U-M alumni that they saw there, and, "Oh! The music!"

Since the mid-1980s, Orchestra Night has featured Ann Arbor Public Schools' middle and high school symphony orchestras at the University of Michigan's beautiful Hill Auditorium. Renowned internationally for its acoustics, Hill is a jewel of our town, and this year, as they have for over thirty years, Ann Arbor students from Clague, Tappan, Scarlett, Forsythe, Slauson, Skyline, Huron, and Pioneer have had the opportunity to perform in this space and learn from each other what is possible if they continue studying music.

Finally, it is our turn.

We drop my daughter and her cello off at the stage door to Hill and watch her walk in, dressed in white shirt, black pants, and her sister's high heels, looking so small as she enters through the same door as Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and many other famous musicians.

As we enter the warmth of the Auditorium, we are struck by the beauty of this space. We climb the stone steps and find seats in the front of the mezzanine section, right in the middle of everything. We admire the golden curve of the stage and the clean brass lines of the pipe organ. We note the CTN camera. We wave down at old friends that live on the other side of town, and we text other friends, "Where are you sitting?"

When Clague's orchestra takes the stage with Ms. Alwin, it is not like the usual school concert in the cafeteria, accompanied by the creak of risers and folding chairs. The music and musicians are transformed by the space, each note lush and rich, the range soaring, the drama of the music reaching out to all of us and pulling us to the very edge of our velvet seats.

"This is a magical experience for not only the students but their families," said Sandy Aldrich, president of the Huron Music Association. "Families who may never have imagined an opportunity to watch and listen to their children perform at such a prestigious venue. Equally important is the experience of listening to our highest-performing high school orchestra students, so that our middle schoolers can aspire and be inspired."

After many years of Orchestra Nights, when my youngest child finally gets his turn on that stage, I am so impressed, not only by the incredible music, but also by how far our family has come since this young man playing tuba was a baby in the mezzanine playing Pokémon.

Ann Arbor Public Schools Orchestra Night is February 27, 7 p.m., at Hill Auditorium.

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

kids calendar (age 12 & under)

AADL: Ann Arbor District Library 327–4200. Events (all free) offered at **Downtown** (343 S. Fifth Ave.), **Westgate** (Westgate shopping center), **Malletts Creek** (3090 E. Eisenhower), and **Pittsfield** (2359 Oak Valley) branches.

AAHOM: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. 995–9439. All events free (except as noted) with regular admission: $12.50 (members & kids under ages 2, free).

HSHV: Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Events also hosted at **Tiny Lions** Lounge & Adoption Center (5245 Jackson, ste. A1). HSHV.org, 661–3575.

Nicola's: Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. All events free. 662–0600.

UMMA, 525 S. State. All events free. 764–0395.

WCPARC: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All events free (except as noted). Preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. 971–6337.

Zingerman's: Zingerman's Upstairs Next Door. 418 Detroit St. $10 per kid includes tastings; parents welcome to lurk for free. Preregistration required. 663–3354.

Feb. 1 (10–10:45 p.m.): **"Japanese Storytime": AADL Malletts Creek.** Local music teacher Momo Kajiwara tells stories and sings songs in Japanese. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Feb. 1 (10–11:30 a.m.): **"Winter Fireside Storytime": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Literacy advocate Natalie d'Aubermont Thompson reads winter-themed picture books TBA. Followed by a hike (weather permitting). Popcorn & warm tea. For families with kids ages 3–8 (siblings welcome). *Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings. $6 vehicle entry fee. 971–6337.*

Every Sat. & Sun. (11 a.m. & 3 p.m.): **Science Forum Demos: U-M Museum of Natural History.** Short hands-on demos for ages 5 & up. **"Out of the Water & Back Again: A Whale's Tale"** (11 a.m.). Handle real fossils while learning about the evolutionary process. Also, make a fossil cast of an ancient tooth. **"Home Sweet H.O.M.E.S.: Exploring the Great Lakes"** (3 p.m.). Learn about the past, present, and future of Michigan's water source. *MNH, 1105 North University. Free. 764–0478.*

Feb. 1 (1–3 p.m.): **"Kids Ice Fishing Clinic": WCPARC.** Hands-on clinic for kids ages 5–12. Information about winter fishing, safety practices, and types of fish, and the chance to make a fish identification and log book. Bait and equipment provided. *Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings. $5 per kid; includes vehicle entrance fee. 449–4437, ext. 201.*

Feb. 1 & 2 (1 & 3 p.m.): **"Professor Ray's Everyday Science: Chem Mystery": AAHOM.** Demonstrations and activities that explore everyday chemistry.

Feb. 1 (3 p.m.): **"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment.** Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free **Kids Open Stage.** *Oz's, 1920 Packard. $20 per family (free for first timers). 662–8283.*

Feb. 1 (7:30 p.m.): **"Family Mew-Vie Night": Tiny Lions.** Screening of a movie TBA. Also, snuggles with adoptable cats. Popcorn, juice, and water. Kids must be with caregiver (at least 1 for every 3 kids). Bring pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets, if you wish. This event usually sells out. *$10 in advance at TinyLions.org/MewvieNights.*

Feb. 2 (noon–5 p.m.): **Chinese New Year: Briarwood mall.** Dragon-themed parades, dragon dance demonstrations, New Year–themed crafts, and more. *Free. 769–9610.*

Every Sun., except Feb. 23 (1–2 p.m.): **"Drawing for Kids": AADL Downtown Multipurpose Rm.** Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a different directed drawing activity each week for grades 1–5. *Feb 2:* **"Stunning Cityscapes."** *Feb. 9:* **"Sweet Candy."** *Feb. 16:* **"Patterned Animals."**

Feb. 2 (2 p.m.): **"Kerry Tales: Greet Groundhogs with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–3115.*

Feb. 2 (2–3 p.m.): **"Shadow Puppets": AADL Westgate.** Grades preK–5 invited to learn how to make their own movable animal shadow puppet. Materials provided.

Feb. 2 (2–3:30 p.m.): **"Junior Naturalist: Michigan Mammals": WCPARC.** Kids age 7–12 invited to learn to identify mammals by looking at skulls, pelts, and teeth. Hike led by naturalist Shawn Severance. *County Farm Park, 2230 Platt.*

Every Mon.–Fri (various times): **Preschool Storytimes: AADL.** Half-hour program of stories and songs for ages 2–5 (with caregiver). Siblings welcome. Mon. 11 a.m. **(Westgate & Malletts Creek)**; Tues. 10 a.m. **(Downtown)**; Wed. 10 a.m. **(Malletts Creek)**, 11 a.m. **(Downtown)**, 1 & 6 p.m. **(Westgate)**; Thurs. 7 p.m. **(Pittsfield)**; Fri. 10 a.m. **(Westgate & Pittsfield)**.

Every Mon.–Thurs. (various times): **Baby Playgroups: AADL.** Hour-long program for ages 24 months & under (with caregiver) of 15 minutes of stories, rhymes, and songs followed by open play. No older siblings, please. Mon. 10:30 a.m. **(Downtown)**; Tues. 10 a.m. **(Malletts Creek)**; Wed. 11 a.m. **(Pittsfield)**; Thurs. 2 p.m. **(Westgate)** & 6:30 p.m. **(Malletts Creek)**.

Every Tues. (9:30 a.m.) & Sat. (10:30 a.m.): **"The Little Scientist Club": AAHOM.** Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3–6; older siblings welcome.

Every Tues. (10–10:45 a.m.): **"Tiny Tails Storytime": HSHV.** Songs, stories, finger plays, and interaction with adoptable cats. For kids ages 2–5 (with caregiver). At ***Tiny Lions***. $5 per child (babies under age 1, free).

Every Tues., except Feb. 25 (10–11 a.m.): **"Tummy Times": AADL Westgate.** New and expecting parents invited to discuss new baby experiences. Babies welcome.

Every Wed. (10–11 a.m.): **"Nature Storytime": LSNC.** Kids ages 2–5 (with a caregiver) invited for program of stories and nature-based activities on different themes. *Feb. 5:* **"I Speak for the Trees."** *Feb. 12:* **"Clean Water, Clean World."** *Feb. 19:* **"The Earth & Me."** *Feb. 26:* **"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."**

Every Wed. (11 a.m.): **Storytime: Nicola's.** An experienced storyteller performs for ages 7 & under.

Feb. 5 (3–4 p.m.): **"Frost Prince & Frost Princess Masks": AADL Westgate.** Grades 2–5 invited to this winter-themed craft.

Feb. 6 (10:30–11:15 a.m.): **"Sensation Stations": AADL Westgate.** Ages 8 months–2 years (with caregiver) invited to scoop, pour, squeeze, and shake a variety of materials.

Every Thurs. (10:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Story Time": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, finger plays, a tour of the adoptable cat area, and a dog meet and greet. For kids ages 2–5, with caregiver. *$5 per child (ages 12 months & under, free).*

Feb. 6 (11 a.m.–noon): **Amy Nielander: AADL Downtown Youth Story Corner.** This area writer and product designer reads from *Grama's Hug,* her new book about small moments with people you love. For grades preK–3.

Feb. 7 & 21 (5–9 p.m.): **"Pets & Pajamas Movie Night": HSHV.** Kids ages 5–11 invited to watch a movie TBA. Also, crafts and a chance to interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. *$35 ($15 for each additional sibling). Preregistration required at hshv.org*

Feb. 8 (10 a.m.–noon): **"Sweet Spot: Tea & Cocoa Party": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Ages 5–12 (with caregiver) invited to learn how to host a tea party and make a tea-inspired craft and a tea blend to take home. Tea, cocoa, and cookies. *Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $12 per child, metered parking. 647–7600.*

Feb. 8 (10–11 a.m.): **"Sensory-Friendly Storytime": AADL Westgate.** Ages 3–7 invited to a 20-minute program of interactive stories, rhymes, & movement, followed by free play. Designed for young listeners who find regular AADL storytimes overwhelming.

Feb. 8 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) & 9 (1–4 p.m.): **"Critters Up Close!": AAHOM.** Leslie Science & Nature Center staff show live **decomposers** (worms & friends). Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. *Note:* On Saturday, animals take a midday break.

Feb. 8 & 22 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Chinese Storytime": AADL Downtown Youth Story Corner.** An AADL storyteller tells stories and sings songs in Mandarin and leads a Chinese-themed craft. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Feb. 8 (11 a.m. & 2 p.m.): **"Family Art Studio: Printing the World Around Us": UMMA.** Local artist Sajeev Vadakoottu leads drawing and screenprinting inspired by the current exhibit of Inuit art, *An Ordinary Day*. Bring your own canvas bags or t-shirts. For kids age 6 & up, accompanied by an adult. *Preregistration required at umma.umich.edu/events.*

Feb. 8 (2–3 p.m.): **Debbie Taylor: AADL Malletts Creek.** This U-M Women in Science & Engineering assistant director reads from ***Over in Motown!,*** her picture book about musical genres and rhythms of Motown-era Detroit. Also, a simple craft for kids. Signing.

Feb. 8 (2–3 p.m.): **"Paper Plate Heart Yarn Craft": AADL Westgate.** Craft for grades preK–3.

Feb. 9 (noon): **"Hunt for the Yeti": WCPARC.** All invited to hike through the park to look for the costumed character "Eddie the Yeti." Prizes for best yeti photo. Crafts & snacks. *Rolling Hills County Park, 7660 Stony Creek, Ypsilanti. $3 per person. 484–9676.*

Feb. 9 (1 p.m.) & 22 (10 a.m.): **"Dancing Babies": AADL.** Ages 5 & under (with caregiver) invited to a 45-minute program of music and movement led by Kindermusik dance teacher Denise Owens (Feb. 9, AADL Pittsfield) and Music Together teacher Dianne Dudley *(Feb. 22, AADL Westgate).*

Feb. 9 (2–3 p.m.): **"Robots": AADL Malletts Creek.** Grades K–5 invited to make a balancing robot & a gliding robot.

Feb. 9 (2–3:30 p.m.): **"Drop-in Minecraft": AADL Downtown Training Center.** Grades 3–8 invited to stop by to play this popular computer game. New & experienced players welcome.

Feb. 9 (3–4 p.m.): **"Spanish Storytime": AADL Downtown Youth Story Corner.** Local writer & teacher Consuelo Digón tells stories and sings songs in Spanish. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Feb. 13 (1 & 4:30 p.m.): **"Valentine's Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $12 (ages 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required by emailing Stevie@CrazyWisdom.net*

Feb. 13 (4:30–6 p.m.): **"Coding Playground": AADL Downtown Training Center.** Grades 3–8 invited to build apps using BitsBox, or work on their own project in their preferred coding language. No experience required.

Feb. 14 (10:30–11 a.m.): **"Valentine's Storytime Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen Just for Younger Kids.** Ages 2–5 invited to listen to Zingerman's staffers read Lillian Hoban's 1998 picture book *Silly Tilly's Valentine* and learn how to taste Valentine sweet treats like an expert.

Feb. 15 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) & 16 (noon–4 p.m.): **"ScienceFest: The Chemistry of Love": AAHOM.** Activities related to Valentine's Day. Learn what makes chocolate taste good, create a color-changing valentine, and more.

Feb. 15 (1–3 p.m.): **"Dinosaur Camp!": AADL Downtown.** Craft activities and themed games for grades K–5.

Feb. 15 (6:30 p.m.): **Daddy-Daughter Dance: WCPARC.** Girls, accompanied by their dad (or grandfather, uncle, or other man), invited for dancing, face painting, a balloon drop, and more. Refreshments. *Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, 2960 Washtenaw. $20 per couple (each additional child, $5).*

Feb. 16 (2–4 p.m.): **Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange.** Drake Meadow calls contras and square dances to live music by Donna Baird & Cindy Feigel. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $12 per family. 274–0773.*

Feb. 17 (10:30–11 a.m.): **"Preschool ArtStart": AADL Pittsfield.** Craft activity for ages 2–5 (with caregiver).

Feb. 20 (10–10:40 a.m.): **"Yoga for Kids!": AADL Westgate.** A Super Fun Yoga Time (Pinckney) instructor leads grades preK–2 in some introductory poses.

Feb. 20 (10–11 a.m.): **"Preschool Hike: Hidden Worlds": WCPARC.** Naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike for kids ages 2–4 (with caregiver) to learn about how animals and plants prepare for spring. *County Farm Park, 2230 Platt.*

Feb. 20–22: **"Under the African Sky": Wild Swan Theater.** This award-winning local children's theater presents a series of African folktales. With drumming and other music. Geared toward kids ages 4–10. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. *10 a.m. (Thurs. & Fri.), 12:30 p.m. (Fri.), & 11 a.m. (Sat.), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River. Tickets $12 (seniors ages 60 & over and kids, $10; lap passes for kids ages 2 & under, $3) in advance at WildSwanTheater.org & at the door. 995–0530.*

Feb. 22 (10 a.m.–noon): **"DIY Animal Tracks Field Guide": AADL Pittsfield.** Interactive activity for grades K–5.

Feb. 22 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) & 23 (noon–4 p.m.): **"Pop-Up Makerspace": AAHOM.** Hands-on engineering activity. This month's challenge: **"Make It Float!"**

Feb. 22 (11 a.m.–noon): **"Nature Explorers: The Mighty Chickadee": WCPARC.** Naturalist Kelsey Dehring teaches kids ages 5 & 6 (with caregiver) about how these hardy birds survive the winter. *County Farm Park, 2230 Platt.*

Feb. 22 (11:15 a.m.–noon): **"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA.** A U-M student docent reads a story related to art on display. Followed by a short craft activity. For ages 3–6 with caregiver. Siblings welcome.

Feb. 22 (3 p.m.): **"Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus": Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences (Michigan Theater Not Just for Kids Series).** Jerry Whiddon directs this Washington, D.C.-based touring group in Mo Willems' new musical adaptation of his children's picture book about a pigeon who wants to drive a bus. Geared towards grades preK–3. *3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $20 (meet & greet, $35) in advance at MichTheater.org & at the door. 668–8397.*

Feb. 23 (1 p.m.): **"33rd Annual Storytelling Festival": The Ark.** See 22 Saturday Events listing. Today's program is a family show.

Feb. 23 (3–4 p.m.): **"Korean Storytime": AADL Malletts Creek.** Korean-language songs, stories, and crafts. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Feb. 25 (2–3 p.m.): **"Kinetic Sandbox": AADL Downtown Secret Lab.** Grades K–5 invited to play with easy-to-mold Kinetic Sand.

Feb. 25 (3–4 p.m.): **"Crafty Puppy Marionette": AADL Pittsfield.** Grades preK–3 invited to make a puppy puppet with household supplies. Materials provided.

Feb. 29 (10 a.m.–noon): **"Leap Year Celebration": AADL Malletts Creek.** Grades K–5 invited to make seasonal crafts.

Feb. 29 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) & Mar. 1 (noon–4 p.m.): **"ScienceFest: Coding to the Moon": AAHOM.** All invited to learn about Margaret Hamilton, a scientist who worked on the Apollo space program. Math & coding activities. With the Wild Swan Theater.

Feb. 29 (11 a.m.–noon): **"Arabic Storytime": AADL Pittsfield.** Local Arabic teacher and storyteller Heba Abdelaal tells stories and sings songs in Arabic. For babies & preschoolers (siblings welcome).

Feb. 29 (2–3 p.m.): **"Paper Dragonfly, Bumble Bee, and Butterfly Puppets": AADL Westgate.** Craft for grades preK–3.

WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the door (ages 12 & under with caregiver, free). (248) 444–9876.

"Mary Poppins": Burns Park Players. See 27 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"James & the Giant Peach, Jr.": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 28 Friday. 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

"Roadsigns": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Annual Fundraising Banquet: Washtenaw County Pheasants Forever. Buffet dinner. Live & silent auctions, raffles. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets $90 (tentative; includes 1-year membership); preregistration required at WashtenawPF.org/Banquets. 646–5710.*

"One Day More Play Reading Festival": Penny Seats Theatre Company. *Feb. 29 & Mar. 1 (different programs).* Two days of informally staged readings featuring the work of 3 local playwrights. *Sat.:* ***Jigsaw Bridge,*** Joseph Zettelmaier's gothic drama about the peculiar discovery of a medieval woman frozen in time, and ***The Mummy Queen,*** Michael Alan Herman's mystery about an ostentatious Victorian homeowner who's discovered in a prolonged trance. *Sun.:* ***Spaceling,*** Michael Alan Herman & Josie Lapczynski's farce about a struggling Midwestern painter hoarding a valuable alien life form, and ***The Known Limits,*** Zettelmaier's drama about an astronomer & lab technician stumped by an unexplainable discovery. *6 p.m., Stone Chalet Bed & Breakfast Inn event center, 1917 Washtenaw Ave. Pay what you can. 276–2732.*

"Ruth's Birthday Dance Fundraiser": Ann Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. A variety of callers lead contra, English, and Scottish dances to live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and Debbie Jackson. For dancers with basic familiarity with one of these styles. Preceded at 6 p.m. by a potluck supper. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free, donations to Back Door Food Pantry are encouraged (money, tea, or nondairy milk). 761–6172.*

"Blue Sky Playwright Festival": Skyline High School. Skyline High School assistant theater director Brodie Brockie directs Skyline students in 5–6 original plays by their peers in various genres. *7:30 p.m., Skyline, 2552 N. Maple. Ticket price TBA at the door only. 994–6515.*

★Contra Dance: Rudolf Steiner School. Dancing to live music by Nutshell with caller Drake Meadow. No partner necessary; dancers of all levels welcome. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by an hour of dancing for kids. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner, 2230 Pontiac Tr. Free. 669–9394.*

Joe List: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

"Liederabend": Kerrytown Concert House. Vocalists TBA perform a program of German art songs. Piano accompanist is Toledo Opera coach and conductor **Kevin Bylsma**. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20–$40 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com & at the door. 769–2999.*

"Thoughts and Prayers": Neighborhood Theatre Group. See 28 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Lungs": Kickshaw Theatre. See 27 Thursday. 8–9:30 p.m.

"The Real Inspector Hound": PTD Productions. See 27 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Classifieds

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

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For Sale

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Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 75? If you can, you could win a $25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, February 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, February 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com (put Fake Ad in the subject line) or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

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Please include your name and contact information.

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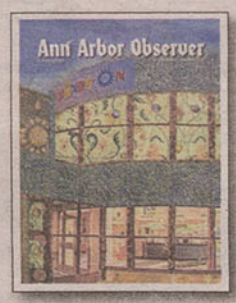
Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher



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FEATURED HOME

ANN ARBOR HILLS – This custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath colonial is a rare find in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. Custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, open concept floor plan, family room with fireplace, all-hardwood flooring, dream master suite with vaulted ceilings and spa-like bath, great sized kids' bedrooms, and finished lower level with rec and exercise room, bedroom, and bath. $1,345,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired contemporary home is a pure masterpiece of design and materials. Estate setting with 8-acres of the most beautiful land you will find. Includes extensive landscaping with a flowing stream, stone patio, and pond. The home highlights include soaring ceilings, dramatic slate fireplace, stone flooring, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout lower level. $950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built home on one of the best lots in the neighborhood. This stately home rests at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac lot featuring great landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior is a showpiece. Highlights include cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, open family room with fireplace, sunroom, screened porch, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. You will love this home. $879,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

RIDING OAKS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home by Toll Brothers rests on one of the best lots in this very popular west side neighborhood. You will love the setting on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with large deck, patio, fire pit, and huge backyard. The interior is stunning featuring a two-story foyer with dual sweeping stairs, two-story family room with stacked stone fireplace, open concept kitchen with maple cabinets and granite, and luxury master suite with sitting room, two walk-in closets, and great bath. $849,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home with panoramic views of the #11 hole. This home is just stunning inside and out. The exterior features extensive landscaping, large deck, and screened porch. Interior highlights include family room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, luxury master suite with sitting room and spa like bath, and finished walkout basement. $839,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WATERWAYS – You will love this 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home located on a private wooded site in one of the area's most desired neighborhoods. The setting is wonderful with mature trees, great landscaping, and large deck. This home sparkles on the inside with two-story living, cherry kitchen with granite countertops, open concept floor plan includes family room with fireplace, luxury first floor master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. $619,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Stately 4-bedroom, 3-bath farmhouse on 10-acres just minutes from Ann Arbor, NCRC, hospitals, and freeways. This is an incredible setting just outside the city with rolling land, historic barn, pond, and hay field. The interior of this home features a century old living room with tons of charm and character, family room with fireplace, large screened porch, nice master suite with attached bath, and 3 large kids' bedrooms. $619,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HAWTHORNE RIDGE – Incredible 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home has been completely redone on the inside. Features include all hardwood floors on the first and 2nd floors, remodeled kitchen with custom maple cabinets and granite countertops, open concept family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SW ANN ARBOR – This stunning 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath transitional contemporary features a wonderful floor plan and a long list of upgrades. You'll love this convenient location just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor, shopping, schools, and UM stadium. The setting is special and located on a quiet private lane with great deck, extensive landscaping, and pond. The interior features great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, custom kitchen with painted maple cabinets and granite counters, den, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, remodeled bath, and finished basement. $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FEATURED HOME

ESTATE HOME – Incredible 5-bedroom, 3-bath, three ½-bath custom-built home on a 2.6-acre pond frontage lot in one of the area's most prestigious locations. This home was an entry in the 2001 Showcase of Homes tour, features a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture, and only the finest materials. Highlights include imported stone exterior, all-hardwood floors on the main two floors, custom kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level. Saline schools. $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2-acre setting is breathtaking. The grounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible! $1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WOODLANDS OF GEDDES GLEN – Incredible 5-bedroom, 6 ½-bath custom-built home overlooking Radrick Farms Golf Course. This home was built to the highest standards. The setting is special with great outdoor living spaces. Interior highlights include gourmet kitchen with Wolf/Sub-Zero appliances, two-story great room, luxury master bedroom suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, spa-like baths, and finished walkout basement! $1,795,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE ESTATES – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath all-brick and stone home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with panoramic views of common area and pond. This home was constructed to the highest standards seen in our area. Highlights include one of the nicest residential pools you will find, custom kitchen with granite and Viking/SubZero appliances, open concept family room, Solarium, luxury master suite with brand new bath, and finished walkout basement with 2nd kitchen, large rec room, and additional flex-use rooms. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath contemporary overlooking the Huron River Valley. This home was built to standards rarely seen in Ann Arbor. The best materials, design, and craftsmanship is evident inside and out of this true work of art. Highlights include wooded 2.3-acre lot, walls of glass that bring the outside in, light-filled great room, custom kitchen, and dream master suite. $1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT HILLS – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods in Wines Elementary school district. Great setting on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with extensive landscaping and large paver patio. The interior is wonderful including two-story family room with stone fireplace, open concept kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury first floor master suite, main level den, great kids' bedrooms, and bonus room. $1,090,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Spectacular, custom-built 6-bedroom, 4 ½-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has it all. Gorgeous 1.2-acre lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and pond. The interior is stunning including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, family room with fireplace, screen porch, sunroom, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. $982,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WINES ELEMENTARY – Classic 4/5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath mid-century modern style ranch on a gorgeous one-acre lot. This setting is special with great privacy, extensive landscaping, large deck, and screened porch all just minutes to downtown, schools, and UM. Interior highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, renovated kitchen with white cabinets, granite, and stainless steel appliances, nice master bedroom suite, and flex-use addition that works as bedroom suite or home office. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two ½-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HIGHPOINTE AT STONEBRIDGE – Incredible 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath detached condo overlooking the 17th fairway at Stonebridge. This is one of the finest condo options you will ever see in the Ann Arbor area. The interior space is dramatic and loaded with quality features and upgrades. Highlights include a panoramic golf course view, great room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, open concept kitchen with professional grade appliances, stunning sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, and finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE SCHOOLS – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home on 6+ wooded acres, backing to a stream. This setting is incredible. Enjoy one of the prettiest views in Saline from the oversized deck and screened porch. The interior is spacious with over 4000 sq.ft. Highlights include great room with stone fireplace, custom cherry kitchen, luxury first floor master suite, den, and great kids' bedrooms. You will love this home. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

THE MEADOWINDS – Very nice 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath two-story in Scio Township just minutes to schools, shopping, and downtown Ann Arbor. The lot backs to protected and common area providing nice privacy from the large deck. The interior sparkles. Highlights include maple kitchen with granite countertops, great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, first floor den, luxury master bedroom suite, and great size kids' bedrooms. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

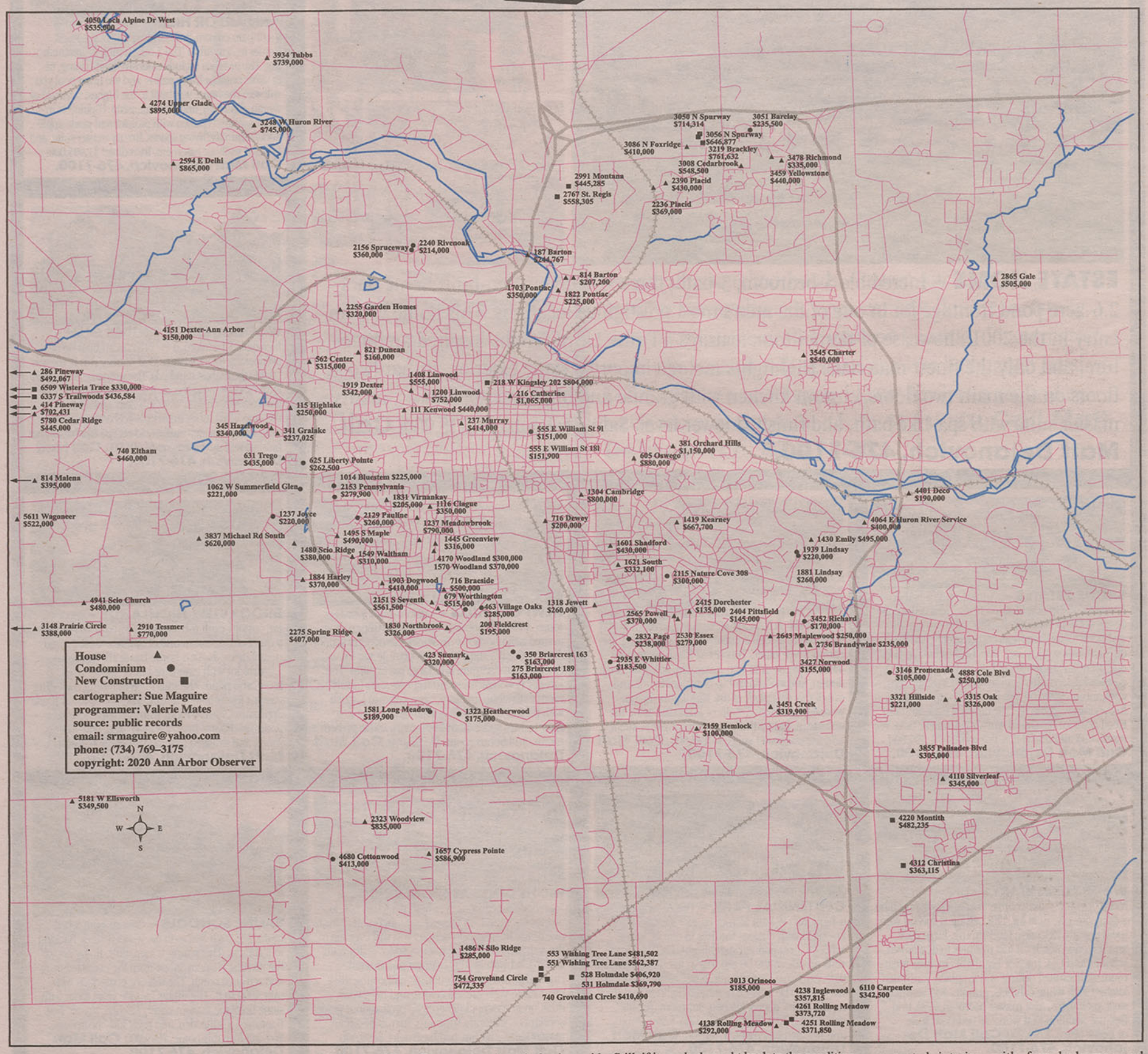
LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS – Move-in condition 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home is wonderful inside and out. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac lot you will love the spacious lot, large backyard, and great deck. The interior sparkles and features great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open concept kitchen with quartz counters, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – DICKEN ELEMENTARY – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial rests on a wonderful private lot and is ready for a personal touch. You will love this convenient location just minutes to schools, shopping, and UM central campus. The home is solid but needs cosmetic updates. Highlights include kitchen with open concept to family room, large formal living and dining rooms, nice master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR CONDO – Very sharp 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath condo on Ann Arbor's east side just minutes to shopping, freeways, and UM. Interior highlights include all-hardwood floor on the main level, open concept floor plan, maple kitchen with granite countertops, great room with fireplace, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling and glamour bath, two nice sized additional bedrooms, and finished basement. $294,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DECEMBER 2019

HOME SALES



A quarter of all homes sold in December were priced under $250,000. As of mid-January, local assessors had recorded 136 transfers with an Ann Arbor mailing address or within the Ann Arbor Public Schools attendance area. Of those, thirty-four sold for $250,000 or less—eighteen condominiums and sixteen single-family homes.

Single-family homes selling at this price point often need work—and attract "flippers." Of the dozen sub-$250,000 single-families sold in the city, half went to LLCs or corporations.

Sitting across the street from the Huron River on almost half an acre, 187 Barton Dr. was purchased by Queenan Construction, Inc. for $244,767. "I want to make older homes more livable and then put them back on the market for what will be an affordable price for Ann Arbor," says company owner Dal Queenan. A U-M grad and Chelsea resident, Queenan has been in business since 1976, specializing in custom woodworking, building, and remodeling.

Queenan says he's rehabilitated half a dozen homes in the Jackson area, but this is the first he's bought in the city. The Barton Dr. house was built in 1923, and his to-do list includes removing some huge dead pines (and their stumps), rebuilding a basement wall, addressing lead-based paint, and closing an abandoned well.

Deferred maintenance explains another seeming bargain, at 2415 Dorchester Rd., near County Farm Park. It sold for just $135,000 but will need to be extensively rehabilitated if not replaced—according to a 2016 MLive article, building officials who responded to neighbors' complaints found it standing vacant, with a hole in the roof and signs that racoons were living inside. Still, if it can be brought back to the condition of other homes in the neighborhood, this modest, three-bedroom mid-century ranch can expect to sell for substantially more than twice the up-front price.

A stunning renovation—and five years' appreciation—more than doubled the value of a home near Fritz Park. The 3,890-square-foot, five-bedroom, 3.5-bath home at 1237 Meadowbrook last sold in 2014 for $290,000. With many infrastructure repairs, new hardwood floors, all-new bathrooms, new upper- and lower-level kitchens with quartz counters and stainless-steel appliances, and a new exterior fireplace, it resold in December for $790,000.

Two homes sold for more than $1 million, including the Anton Eisele House at 216 Catherine. The 2,665-square-foot, fully renovated interior, with four bedrooms and 3.5 baths, including a carriage house, sold for $1,065,000. Built in 1869 by Eisele, who came to Ann Arbor from Germany already a skilled tradesperson, it sits at the southeast corner of Detroit and Catherine streets. Eisele's Marble Works focused on tombstone carving and other cemetery work. His carving skill can be seen in the distinctive, original stone lintels over the windows of the home.

To learn how Eisele's stepson, John Baumgardner, grew the business—and why the Detroit Street Filling Station across the street has lightning bolts on its facade—sign up for a Building Matters Ann Arbor architectural tour. The tours are on hiatus for the winter, but will resume in the spring.

—Sue Maguire

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1054 Morningside
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5662 Arbor Chase #18
1661 Scio Ridge
8872 Briarwood
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3005 Fernwood
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9180 Posey
5766 Hampshire
2419 Pittsfield
4713 Inverness
111 N. Ashley #404
3080 Huntington Valley
1571 Valentine
8523 Berkshire
2395 Mershon
12121 Pinebrook Lane
2692 Hunley
111 N Ashley #1008
100 Jesswood
49321 Wear
1448 Sugarloaf Lake
2902 Dillon
378 Cottonwood
3002 Spurway
962 W Summerfield Glen
555 E Wiiliams #22G
111 N Ashley #1008
2442 Mulberry
7165 Palmer
1741 Monterey Ct
1721 Newport Creek
1730 Waltham
584 Allison
217 Detroit
3194 Birchwood
7812 Bay Tree
2304 Carraige Way
957 E. Summerfield Glen
1440 Fox Pointe
140 Ashley Mews
173 Ashley Mews
1008 Scott
49161 Hawksburry
2304 Carriage Way
5655 Carter
4861 Polo Fields
311 Cornell
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5523 High Ridge
13450 Rosemary Blvd
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2817 Barclay
962 Summerfield Glen
2817 Barclay
962 Summerfield Glen
1811 Pinecroft
2607 Tessmer
2875 Pebble Creek
400 Davis
3725 Beech
1702 Parkside
213 Oakwood
2250 McKinley
6240 N. Territorial
105 E Summit
1333 Heatherwood
3049 Forest Creek
2185 Churchill
15915 Cavanaugh Lake
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2814 Renfrew
3725 Beech
4297 Adrian
8330 Ardmoor
785 Lambkins
2250 McKinley
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2080 Liberty Heights
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8109 Top View
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9273 Mirage Lake
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2231 South Main
2090 Bent Trail
315 Second #201
107 Ponds View
49066 Togowtee
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2070 Hollow Oak
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1525 Long Meadow
1525 Packard
3320 Breckland Ct
3486 Burbank
7261 Eaton Ct
9050 Country View
905 Hutchins
705 Ferris
1853 Pug Road
9513 Sandpiper
5700 Villa France
3320 Breckland Ct
218 W. Kingsley #304
(New Construction)
3360 Endsleigh
3486 Huron View Ct
1258 North St
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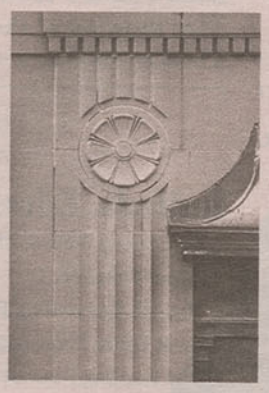
Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

January's I Spy "shows a detail of the storefront facade at 310 South State Street," writes Ivana Tullett. "At first I thought it must be on Nickels Arcade," adds Claire Moffett, "but then I realized I was a little too far down the street. It's the old 'get your game on' store on State St.!"

"Originally, it held Wahr's Bookstore which opened at that location in 1892," writes Silvia Ruiz. David Karl notes that in 1903, Wahr's moved to 316 S. State St., "where it remained open until his grandson sold the stock to the Borders brothers in 1975."



More than a facelift

Dave Bicknell recalls that the space was "Marty's clothing store in the 1970s." Before that, adds Karl, it was Saffell and Bush men's wear.

Regardless of the occupant, says Karl, "I've always stopped and admired the design of the building. One of the more interesting ones in a city with quite a few architectural gems."

We received ten entries in January, nine of which were correct. Tullett won our random drawing winner and will enjoy her $25 gift certificate at Isalita.

To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received eight entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Leaning into Meaning in the January issue.

"I've lived in AA since September and this is the first fake ad I've managed to find!" wrote Anna Redgrave. "I think it's on page 45, the perfect 'fROTH' on your cappuccino [hiding the name of last month's winner]. Incidentally did you mean to put it 1 page away from a photo of cappuccino designs?"

Redgrave wasn't the only contestant to comment on the fortuitous placement. "It kind of jumped out at me after looking at a news item about a coffee shop where the latte machine could generate a custom image in the foam on your coffee," wrote Harm Buning of Placentia, California. "LoL." (For his role in another funny story, google "Apollo 15 Harm Buning.")

"The fake ad is Connecting the Powerful with the Powerless, Leaning into Meaning," wrote David Karl. "These would be great slogans for someone's political campaign … Ever think of running for office? Or managing someone's campaign?"

We're so glad you asked. Ed Nimby is rumored to be assembling an exploratory committee at this very moment.

Kathy Erwin was chosen as our winner. She's taking her gift certificate to Seva.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Monday, February 10, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our January drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

January winners:
Lora O. & Anastasia K.

If you would like to be entered in the February drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 68, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by February 10.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

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Events at a Glance

*Daily **Events** listings begin on p. **51**. **Films:** p. **61**. **Galleries:** p. **55**. **Kids:** p. **67**. **Nightspots** begin on p. **48**.*

➤**Reviewed** in this issue. See p. 51

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- U-M faculty showcase, Feb. 6
- Pianist Valentina Igoshina, Feb. 9
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 16
- ➤Budapest Festival Orchestra, Feb. 20
- Contemporary Directions Ensemble, Feb. 21
- Duo Belder Kimura, Feb. 22
- U-M Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 24
- U-M University Choir, Feb. 25
- West-Eastern Divan Ensemble, Feb. 26
- ➤AAPS Orchestra Night, Feb. 27

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

*See **Nightspots**, p. 48, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, Blue LLama, & other clubs*

- The Ark Folk Festival, Jan. 31 & Feb. 1
- Cécile McLorin Salvant & Aaron Diehl (jazz), Feb. 6
- ➤Mustard's Retreat (folk), Feb. 8
- The Allman Betts Band (blues-rock), Feb. 8
- Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán (UMS), Feb. 14
- Nessa (jazz-Celtic), Feb. 15
- Mavis Staples (R&B), Feb. 15
- Angélique Kidjo (singer), Feb. 16
- ➤PD9 Sun Ra Band (jazz), Feb. 22
- Juggernaut Jug Band, Feb. 28

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *White Feminist* (UMS), Feb. 3–9
- James Twyman's *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, Feb. 6
- "Latin Xpressions" (U-M dance), Feb. 6–9
- *North Star* (EMU), Feb. 7–9 & 13–16
- "An Anthology of Black Dance in America" (PURe dance), Feb. 7 & 8
- "Swaranjali" (U-M Sahana), Feb. 8
- *Hansel and Gretel* (Comic Opera Guild), Feb. 14–16
- *Sonnets, Soliloquies, and Soul* (U-M musical theatre), Feb. 20–23
- *Yerma* (U-M theatre), Feb. 20–23
- Dorrance Dance (UMS), Feb. 21 & 22
- *Mary Poppins* (Burns Park Players), Feb. 27–29 & Mar. 1
- *Lungs* (Kickshaw Theatre), Feb. 27–Mar. 15
- *The Real Inspector Hound* (PTD Productions), Feb. 27–29, Mar. 1, & 4–7
- *James & the Giant Peach Jr.* (Encore), Feb. 28–Mar. 8
- *Thoughts and Prayers* (Neighborhood Theatre Group), Feb. 28–Mar. 8

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Joe DeVito, Jan. 30–Feb. 1
- The Moth StorySlam, Feb. 5 & 18
- Comic Ben Creed, Feb. 6–8
- Comic Tina Giorgi, Feb. 13–15
- Comic John Roy, Feb. 20–22
- Comic Joe List, Feb. 27–29

EMU drama students Darien Vaughn and Tayler Jones in Gloria Bond Clunie's 1998 drama *North Star*, showing at the EMU Sponberg Theatre on Feb. 7–9 & 13–16.

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Ice Carving, Feb. 8, 21, & 22
- Fleece Fair, Feb. 15
- The Ark Storytelling Festival, Feb. 22 & 23
- Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival, Feb. 29
- Play Reading Festival (Penny Seats), Feb. 29 & Mar. 1

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Michigan Radio's Zoe Clark & Rick Pluta, Feb. 3
- ➤Poet Ilya Kaminsky, Feb. 6
- Novelist Madeline Miller, Feb. 7
- Environmental justice advocate Robert Bullard, Feb. 13
- Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Feb. 19
- Essayist Rochelle Riley, Feb. 27
- Poets Tracy Zeman & John McCarthy, Feb. 27
- Writer Colum McCann, Feb. 28

Family & Kids' Stuff

*See our **Kids Calendar**, p. 67, for most kids events.*

- Family Art Studio, Feb. 8
- Valentine's Tea with the Fairies, Feb. 13
- *Under the African Sky* (Wild Swan Theater), Feb. 20–22
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* (Kennedy Center), Feb. 22

Miscellaneous

- Dodgeball Tournament, Feb. 1
- Academy Awards preview, Feb. 5
- Curling, Feb. 7
- Global Music Weekend, Feb. 8
- Masquerade Ball/Fasching Dinner, Feb. 15
- Zingerman's African American foodways dinner, Feb. 19

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Food-Waste Dinner, Feb. 18

2020 TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

THEORIZING RACIAL JUSTICE

CHARLES W. MILLS

The City University of New York

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

4–6pm | Rackham Auditorium

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Lecture is free and open to the public

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